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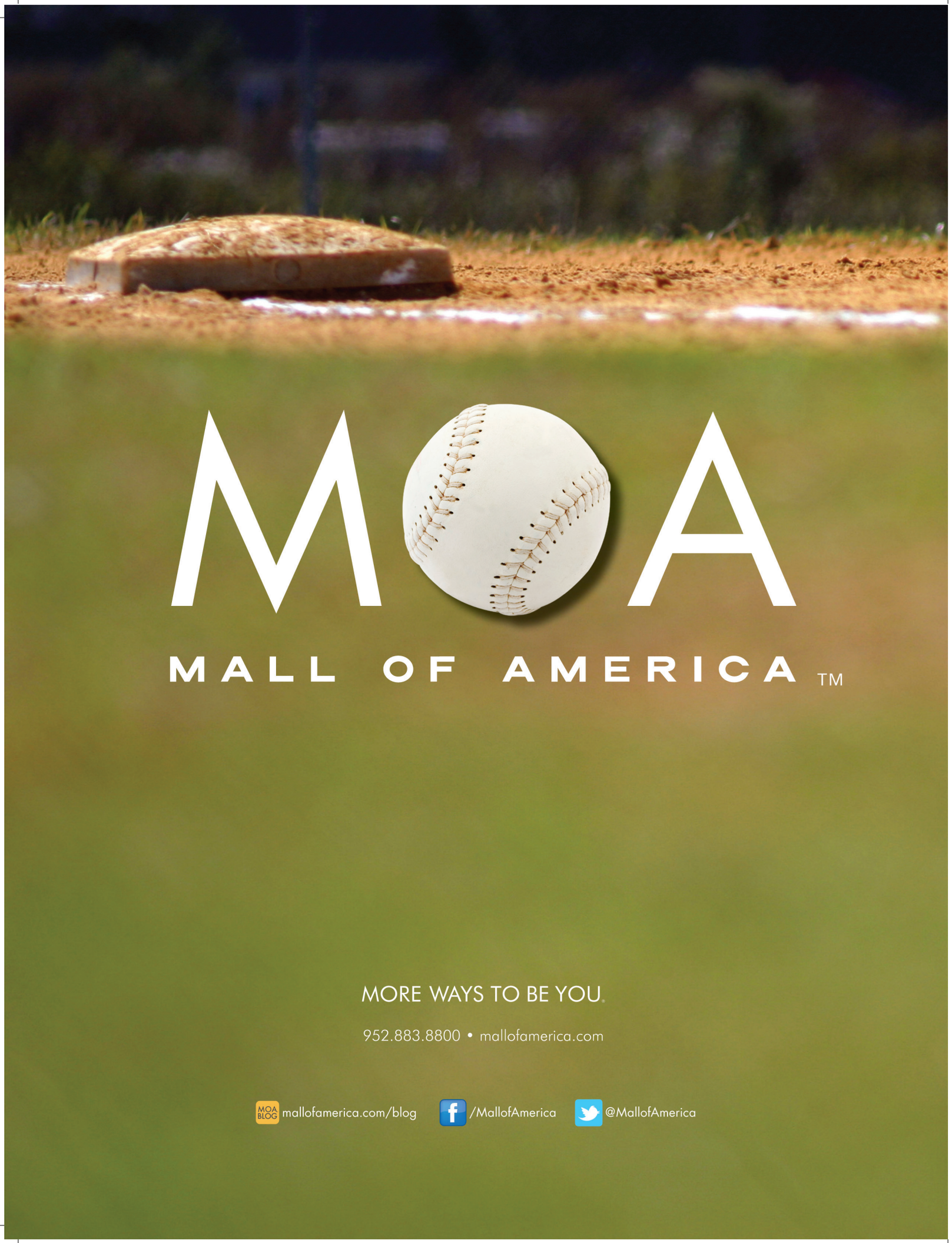
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ON THE COVER
Softball player Tony Wolff of the Swingers. Photo and production by Mike Hnida

NOTE
The Mercedes models reviewed in Issue 448 and at www.LavenderMagazine.com were courtesy of Sears Imported Autos, www.searsimports.com.

CORRECTION
Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Representative (WI 2), was erroneously listed in Issue 448 as running for the same office she currently holds but she is actually running for U.S. Senate.



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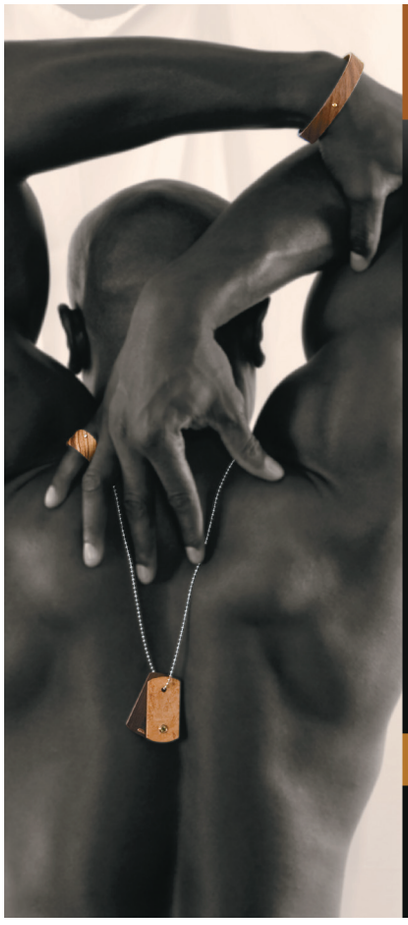
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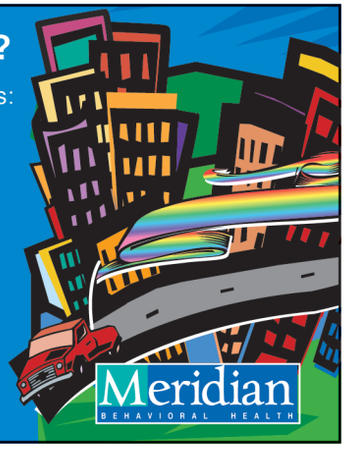
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FROM THE EDITOR | Andy Lien

I MAY have to ask forgiveness instead of permission for this quick letter; Brent Fourre (right, pictured with his sister) doesn't know I'm writing this. This time last year, I'd been to a couple of *Lavender* events but was barely beginning to recognize the usual suspects. Then, I went to the Renaissance Festival and saw a guy who I was certain I'd seen and asked to take a picture of him and his friends—and he recognized me back. Such was the start of our mutual recognition society, which I bolstered by stalking him on Facebook just to surprise him by knowing his last name when I saw him at the next event. Relationship building. Or just being creepy. You decide.

At last night's First Thursday at Loring Kitchen & Bar, Brent good-naturedly stepped out of a picture with his friends, and we laughed about how often his picture is in the magazine and on the website. I made the point that the odds are good—he's at so many events and is very involved in the community. Then, I told him privately how I thought of him and his job as an American Sign Language Interpreter when I was watching the interpreter at Dan Savage's show (signing about sex is almost more funny than talking about it). He laughed, too, but then told me about a recent challenge he faced in his interpreting.

As pictured in the Lavender Lens on page 14, the Red Ribbon Ride that raises money and awareness for the various AIDS organizations in Minnesota held its closing ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol. Brent was there as a rider and also as an American Sign Language Interpreter. Just as we had been giggling a moment before, we turned solemn as he recounted how he'd ended up interpreting a video at the Closing Ceremony that included his own story. He powered through interpreting the story of his own partner of 16 years dying of complications of AIDS. He marveled at how the story he told to a camera when registering for the ride was broadcast in its entire two minutes for everyone to see and hear. I marveled that he made it through the telling—twice—in two languages and in front of an audience.

We spoke of how carefully he crafted his words and thoughts to be respectful to the audience and how, in speaking to other members of the media, he cautioned that AIDS is still a force to contend with.

I had no idea. This was all new to me. But, I am grateful to have had the chance to learn more about Brent, not in a video at a Closing Ceremony, but at a happy hour. Someone who was already a familiar and friendly person showed more of his facets and I—along with the people at the Red Ribbon Ride—are fortunate to know more about him.

The point I'm making is that even though I curate stories for people to read and see in these pages and online, sometimes the stories just need to be gotten from each other, in person.

And I'm grateful for each and every one that I get to hear.

With thanks,

Andy





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Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow: Summer

A YEAR ago, I escaped the worst of the July heat wave by having knee replacement surgery, recovering in an air-conditioned rehab facility. This year, conserving my remaining knee, I flew to California, just south of San Francisco, to visit an old friend from junior high. The Coast. Cool. Foggy. Where one lazes about the house in parkas and snuggles under comforters at night.

Neither of us watches television, so along with blissful temperatures we enjoyed blessed, stress-free silences punctuated only by the foghorn's soothing call and our spirited conversations.

And what was there to talk about for ten long summer days? Not unexpectedly, at our age, the subject of mortality cropped up with some frequency. We are slouching towards our respective 50th college reunions in 2013—less than a year hence—and while as a reporter I had occasion to interview alums on their Harvard 50ths, my own achieved half-century is rather daunting.

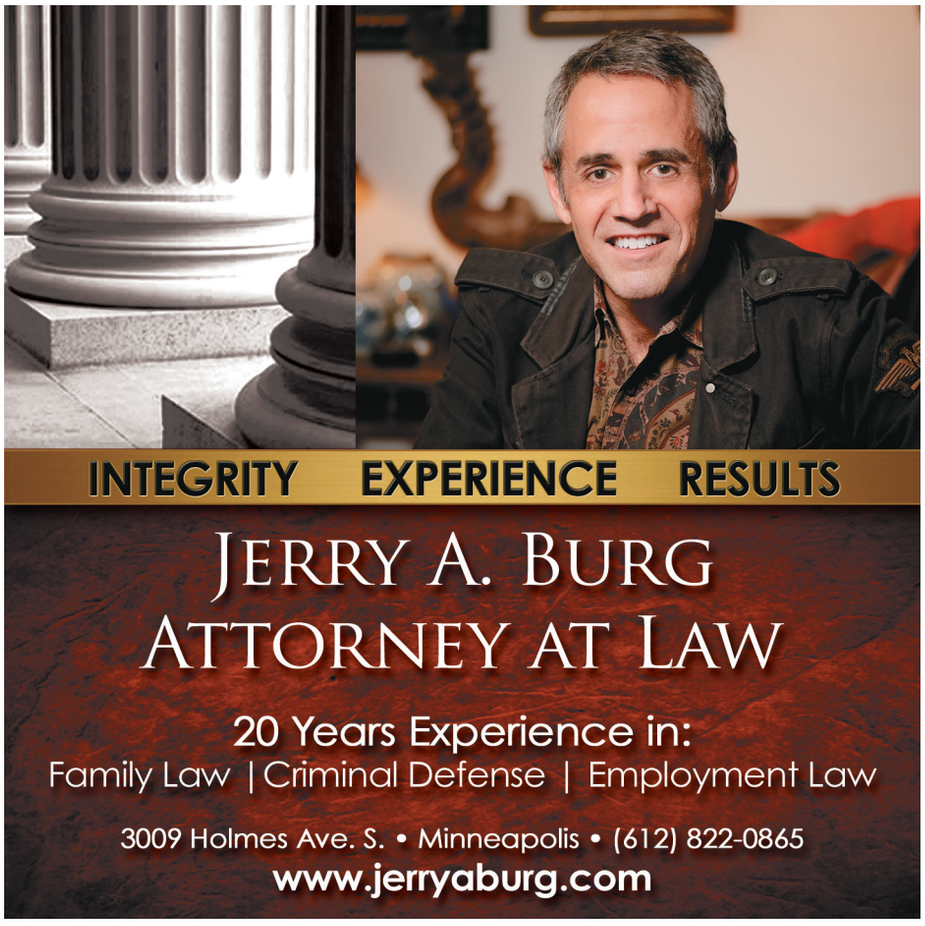
What, for example, can we reasonably attempt to accomplish in our unknown allotted times? How athletic can we be...skidding over the slippery rocks of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve begged that question. How, while we're still mobile, do we design an endgame that will see us off before having to relocate to a refrigerator box under a bridge? The Golden Gate would provide an awesome view, but…

Back in Minnesota, where temperatures now appear to be measured in Celsius, I've been pondering these conversations as I quaff quarts of ice water in front of a battery of fans, reminding my autonomic system to keep on pumping the air in and out.

I experienced a lovely visit, but what moral might the reader be expected to draw from my meander? None, really—perhaps simply some suggestions. Now, while you've time, visit an old friend, or keep in touch through something more intimate than Facebook. It's a great place to advertise, but not to say, "Hey! You're special to me."

Grads—whether it's your first or fiftieth year out—each one of you has only a finite time. Don't stop moving: It's never too early to draw up a bucket list. Stay in touch with your current posse, and remember your other, older, now far-flung friends of earlier days.

Oh: and whatever else, vote NO in November. □





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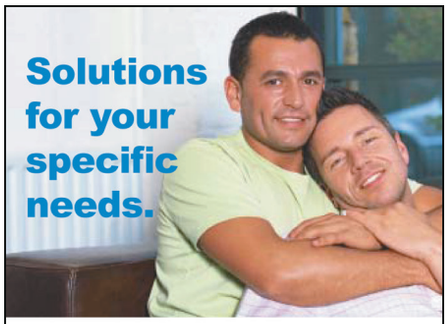
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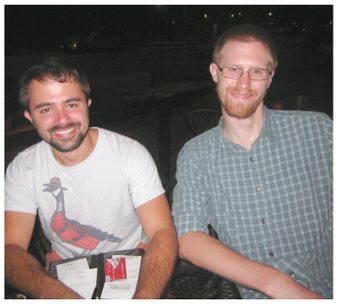
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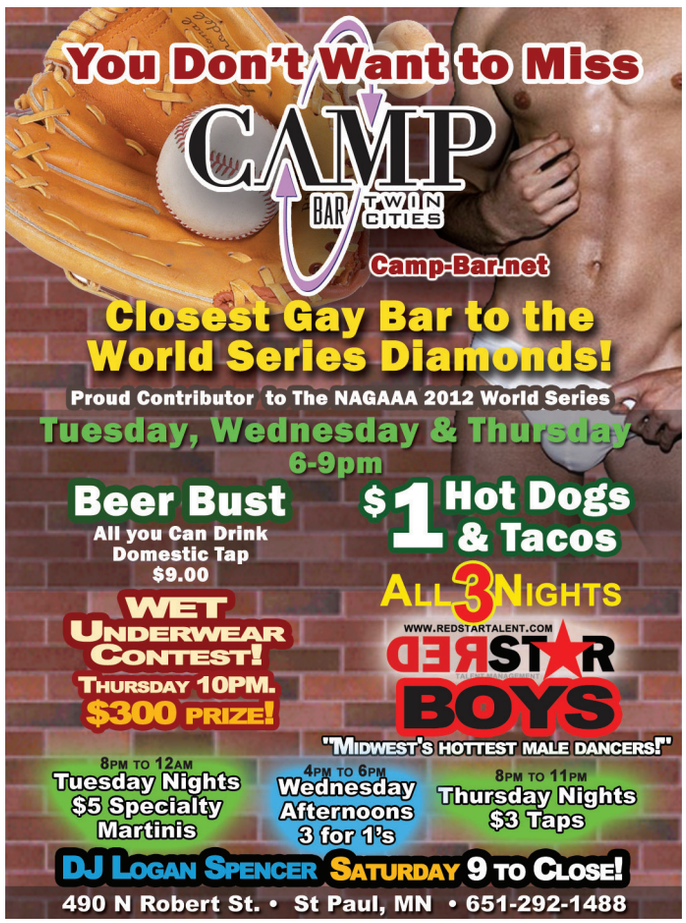


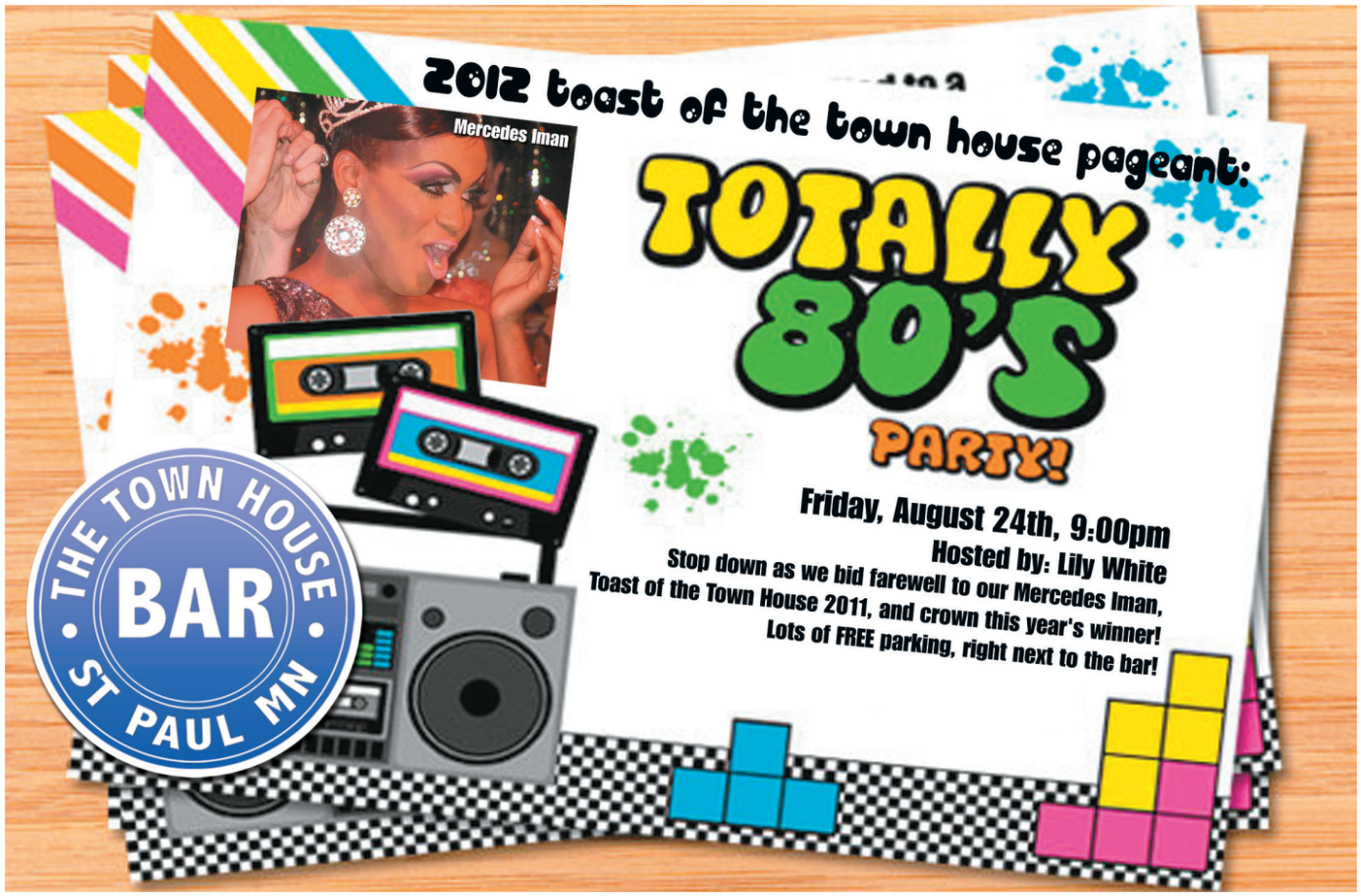

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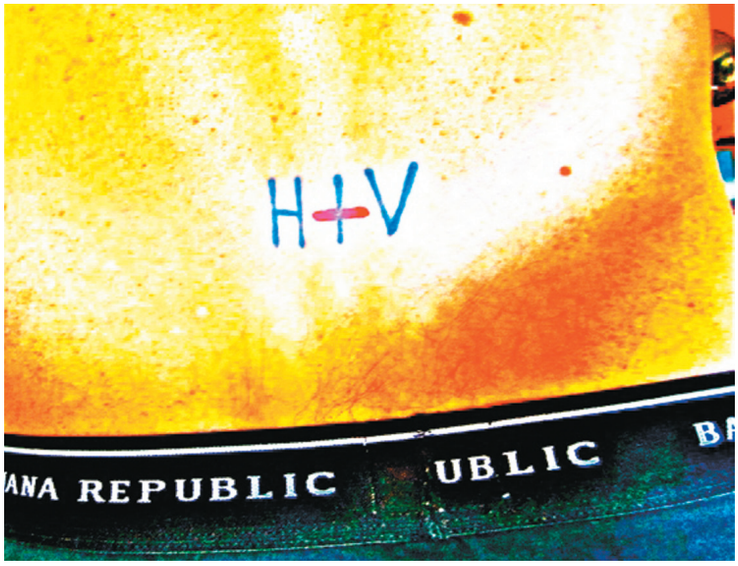

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THE TOWN HOUSE
BAR
ST PAUL MN
Friday, August 24th, 9:00pm
Hosted by: Lily White
Stop down as we bid farewell to our Mercedes Iman,
Toast of the Town House 2011, and crown this year's winner!
Lots of FREE parking, right next to the bar!


Welcome Gay World Series Players
eagle BOLT bar
FRIDAY Aug 17th
FRIDAY NIGHT BLOCK PARTY
"Under the Big Top"
SATURDAY Aug 18th
SATURDAY UNDERWEAR PARTY
IN THE UNDERGROUND
BLOCK PARTY CONTINUES
AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONIES
MONDAYS
$3 Rail Cocktails & $5 Pitchers
TUESDAYS
$2 Taps 9pm til Close
WEDNESDAYS
$3 Burgers til 10, 2-4-1s after 10pm
THURSDAYS
$1 Wieners til 10pm & $3 MGDs
FRIDAYS
Best Damn Happy Hour in Town
3 for 1s 4pm-7pm
SATURDAYS
Bloody Mary Breakfast Bar at 10am
SUNDAYS
Bloody Mary Breakfast Bar at 10am
All You Can Swallow BeerBust 4-8pm
Showtunes in the bolt bar
$1 off for Shirtless Guys after 10pm
515 Washington Ave S - www.EAGLEBOLTBAR.com - Downtown Minneapolis



SPOTLIGHT | John Townsend





Above: One of Todd Miller's Minneapolis Images. Photo by Todd Miller
Top: *The Rainbow Election: Mommies and Mormons and Gays, Oh My!* (l to r): Taj Ruler, Matt Erkel, Bobby Gardner, Lauren Anderson, Andy Hilbrands, Josh Eakright. Photo by Dani Werner.

TODD MILLER'S MINNEAPOLIS IMAGES

In August: Dunn Bros., Lake and Humboldt, Mpls
In September: Dunn Bros., 34th & Hennepin, Mpls.
(612) 822-6984
Facebook: 'phoTODDgraphy'

Minneapolitans can lose sight of the fact that they live in a truly beautiful city. When you travel outside the state, you'll run into people who call Minneapolis the San Francisco or the San Diego of the Midwest. When I've entertained friends and relatives from other parts of the country and the planet, they are without exception struck by the city's natural and human-made beauty, from the lakes to the parks to the skyline to various architectural structures and public art that exude their own special identity.

Todd Miller is an artist who celebrates that beauty. His splendid body of work reflecting that can be seen this summer at three different Dunn Bros. coffee shops. He takes digital photographs and recomposes them with computer editing options such as exposure, saturation, definition, contrast, and shadow. Miller admits, "I am very heavy handed when it comes to using oversaturated color to create positive energy."

Miller was born and raised in Duluth but has lived in Minneapolis for almost three decades. He shares "I am HIV Positive and feel that not only the HIV/AIDS community, but civilization as a whole is craving positive energy—outdoor activities, yoga, martial arts, alternative medicines, etc. I offer what I call 'Visual Vitamins.' I shoot in Minneapolis because I feel there are nearly endless subjects that would be appreciated in different light, texture, and scope. I feel we have some wonderful historic icons and unique architectural landmarks that identify our Midwest flavor and search out unusual angles and compositions expressing my imagination."

THE RAINBOW ELECTION: MOMMIES AND MORMONS AND GAYS, OH MY!

Through Nov. 3
Brave New Workshop,
(612) 332-6620
www.BraveNewWorkshop.com

For too long, the region's premiere comedy troupe has presented average and even below average work, but finally, the Brave New Workshop has roared back with their best show in years with this brilliantly astute spoof on both major political parties. It's not the fatuous fingerpointing that too often, too easily, ridicules and mocks politicians. It's a sharply focused look inside the hypocrisies and contradictions of both die-hard Republicans and Democrats and the two men they currently champion.

For Obamacrats who lazily think that the only criticism about their man comes from the Tea Party/GOP, they need to get a clue that, as with the Clintons, there is ample and compelling criticism of him from the Left of the Democratic Party and from just plain old basic objectivity. Beefy Obama criticism has been shut out by much of mainstream media and which can be found primarily at marginalized but serious outlets like democracynow.org and alternet.org. And this company collaboration directed by Caleb McEwen doesn't shy away from that beef.

Throughout, Obama (Andy Hilbrands) is shown up for his record number of deportations, his Kill List, his horrific drone attacks, his extension of Bush tax cuts for the rich, and his health care plan that enriches insurance companies and of which a similar version has been championed in the past by US Congressional Republicans and Romney. Both sides are exposed for their profound hypocrisy on this count. Nothing fatuous about that.

Hence, in turn, Democrats are shown as having a double standard for condoning tactics by Obama that they would have pilloried George W. Bush for. To point, Obama has ratified the Bush Doctrine, in the same way Clinton ratified Reaganism.

But don't worry Obamacrats; your man, played splendidly by Hilbrands, is shown as a genuine victim of racism. There's no doubt about that. So you can take some solace there because Tea Party zealots do indeed have it out for him, no doubt about it. The scenes where people react to him like Pavlov's dog when he wears a hoodie are satirically terrific. There's also a great scene where the dynamic Lauren Anderson plays the only woman on a panel with three reactionary men we can assume are Republicans.

Bobby Gardner reprises the gay stereotype he's known for, but in this case, as a Paul Lynde version of President James Buchanan, he's marvelous. It brings up that idiotic notion that some neocon morons have that, because Obama is pro-gay, he must be gay and therefore is a gay President.

But perhaps the show's best moments are in the empirical comparisons that are made to a group of fanatical Republicans that show disarming similarities between Obama and their deity, Ronald Reagan. James Roop's projections are inspired with an image where Obama is altered to make him look whiter and blonder, hence more acceptable to a GOP test group.

The Romney family is spoofed and the Mormon magical underwear mystique is mischievously portrayed by Gardner. Though the Bain Capital issue is not delved into, the show is packed with digs at Romney's wealth and how that puts him out of touch with average Americans. Without saying too much, there's another image toward the end that pokes marvelous fun at that mystique as well. This revue asks us: which group will the US be less tolerant toward—Mormons or gays? And why won't Obama be more proactive in enabling gay marriage rather than just giving it his verbal support?

ROMAN HOLIDAY
Through Aug. 19
Guthrie Theater Proscenium Stage,
818 So. 2nd St., Mpls.
(612) 377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

John Miller-Stephany reminds us what a truly great director of musicals he is. His current *Roman Holdiay* is yet another sterling achievement among his other sterling musical achievements at the Guthrie—*1776* and *She Loves Me*. As with these, the basic material is stellar. Paul Blake's 2001 text is injected with numerous tunes by master gay composer/lyricist Cole Porter (1891-1964). For the most part, they buoy the narrative along.

You may recognize the title from the 1953 Oscar-nominated Best Picture directed by William Wyler. It comes from a story by Dalton Trumbo who was blacklisted in the McCarthy Era not long before the film was made and who also co-wrote the screenplay with Ian McLellan Hunter and John Dighton.

The Guthrie production perfectly balances a big ensemble with principal players. Alex Sanchez's choreography and Samuel S. Davis's dance arrangements are packed with glorious swing by dancers who joyously capture the post-World War II *zeitgeist* that infused the West at that time. We are reminded of the assertion that the modern Sexual Revolution was born out of the ashes of that war. Young soldiers had been flung around the world, away from hearth and home stateside. This meant extramarital sexual experience to an unprecedented degree. Women had proved crucial in the wartime workplace, and in America in the '50s, they were being shelved and defined as homemakers. In Europe, they were grappling with poverty, along with men who often fueled an underground economy. So something had to give. Morevoer, the artists in this production remind us that there was more beneath the pretty surface of the '50s that's been handed to us.

That *zeitgeist* is the essence of this musical. The story is of young Princess Anne (Stephanie Rothenberg), who escapes the straitjacket of her schedule after taking an upper prescribed by her doctor. Fatefully, she meets up with an ambitious composer, Joe Bradley (Edward Watts), himself straitjacketed in a dead-end job as a reporter. These two actors are a dream duo.

The story challenges the audience to examine ethics in the realms of love, attraction, and monetary gain, and the Guthrie show vivifies that quite lucidly. Envy of young Anne's privilege is counterbalanced by the psychologically brutalizing duties she is expected to fill. Compare it to those in corporate ↦







The Sunshine Boys. Raye Birk (left) and Peter Michael Goetz. Photo by Michael Brosilow.

positions who run themselves ragged at the behest of authoritarian corporatist decorum and hence, lose sight of who they really are.

With Joe, one may be tempted to say: "exploit this privileged woman's naivete along with her physical/emotional attraction to you." But Trumbo and Blake have built conscience into this story quite beautifully. You exploit at your soul's peril.

Andrew Cooke's musical direction and Michael Horsley's vocal arrangements embody Porter and are consistently vibrant. But there are some high points that transcend the others. Christina Baldwin's fabulously flourishing and sensual *Just One Of Those Things* with male quartet reminded me of Anita Ekberg in Fellini's Rome-set film classic, *La Dolce Vita*. Watt's rendition of that emblematic Porter tune, *Night and Day*, quite simply, soars.

THE VAMPIRE

Through Aug. 26
Minnesota Centennial Showboat, Harriet Island, St. Paul
(651) 227-1100
www.showboat.umn.edu

This summer's Showboat offering is one of the clearest-cut, old-fashioned melodramas they've produced in some time. It's not that those of recent summers past have not been delightful light fare; it's just that they haven't lent themselves to such natural and logical moments of booing and hissing as the current *The Vampire* which J.R. Planche penned in 1820.

Director Peter Moore's effervescent U of M student cast inhabits C. Lance Brockman's gothic noir scenic design befitting the 19th century melodramatic tradition. Though there's a splendid moment of interracial love between a woman and a man that would have been more than frowned on in the 1800s, the largely white audience there the night I attended cheered enthusiastically. Face it: some things do indeed get better!

With Ryan Colbert as Lord Ruthven, *Vampire* moves with menacing grace. Charlotte Calvert's Lady Margaret is a vivid image of classical maidenhood. Planche's script may not be a literary masterwork but he crafted some heightened moments which Moore's staging capitalizes on nicely. Emily Grodzick and Chelsie Newhard enchant as two spirit figures in the opening scene lit with occult flair by Sarah Brandner. Evan Adams charms throughout as M'Swill, the unfortunate stock character who is the brunt of many gags.

India Gurley, Zach Keenan, Aeysha Kinnuen, Joseph Pyfferoen, and Tim Murray also lend solid support to the melodrama, as well as the olios–the musical numbers between the scenes directed by Vern Sutton. Though there are points where some voices could be stronger, this year's olios are some of the funniest in years. Jonathan Singer's hilariously inspired costumes, like a stole made not of mink, but of cash, and a giant frankfurter outfit, make mischief commentary on greed and—well, you know what I mean.

THE SUNSHINE BOYS

Through Sept. 2
Guthrie Theater Thrust Stage, 818 So. 2nd St., Mpls.
(612) 377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

There's an old saying: 'There's no fool like an old fool.' Neil Simon demonstrates this ugly unsentimental reality in Willie Clark (Peter Michael Goetz), an elderly comedian who continues to blame his comic duo partner Al Lewis (Raye Birk) for leaving him in the lurch when he quit their vaudeville duo, Lewis & Clark, years before. Among other questions, Simon has us muse on just how much we have a right to rely on another for our identity and happiness. When the pair are offered a whopping ten grand for a short appearance on a commemorative TV comedy show, Willie throws up numerous irrational obstacles even though he's living on the border of poverty.

Director Gary Gisselman's stellar cast plays the raw truth of each moment and reels in the laughs because of that truthfulness. It's a great time in the theater as well as a searing examination of the wages of grudge-holding and the price of not forgiving. It's a frank and hilariously funny assessment that you would expect to get in a good Christian church. But since so many churches are so focused on pelvic issues, we have to go to the theater for insight on the problem of the difficulty of forgiveness from a Jewish playwright. And a great playwright, I hasten to add. □

TWIN CITIES FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

NAGAAA 2012 WORLD SERIES

Monday 8.13
OPENING CEREMONIES





6-9 pm • Nicollet Island Pavilion
40 Power St. • Minneapolis
No cover charge.

Featuring nationally famous but locally grown Miss Richfield 1981 with DJ David B!

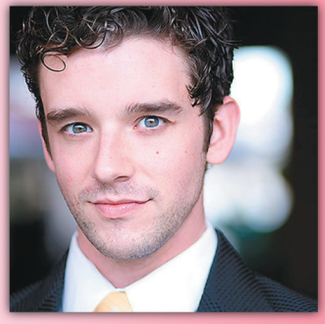
Wednesday 8.15
MID-TOURNEY PARTY & TALENT SHOW

5:30pm-Midnight • Seven & Pantages
710 Hennepin Ave • Minneapolis
$5 Party • $5 Show.



Buy a drink for a player before double elimination starts on Thursday, and watch athletes show their many skills in the annual World Series talent show. All proceeds are donated to local non-profits Rainbow Health Initiative and The Bridge for Youth.

Saturday 8.18
CLOSING PARTY







5-11pm • The Depot
225 3rd Ave. S • Minneapolis
No cover charge.

Forget the "ceremony." This is a PARTY! Hosted by **MICHAEL URIE** from Ugly Betty and the star of the new CBS sitcom Partners. Performance by recording artist **SEAN ENSIGN**. Music by **DJ PHIL DaBEATZ**.

TwinCities2012Series.org

All events open to the public



NAGAAA 2012
Gay Softball World Series

OF THE many activities our community is involved with, there is nothing like a friendly game of softball.

The Twin Cities always had a tradition of GLBT softball. The Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League just wrapped up their 34th season with the largest field of teams and participants in their history. All 38 teams participated in a series of playoffs on the final weekend of July at the Northview Athletic Complex in Eagan after enduring the long season at their regular season home in Northeast Minneapolis.

However, softball season is not exactly over. In fact, the competition has just turned up a notch. Starting on August 13, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance will bring their annual culminating softball event to our backyard—Eagan and Inver Grove Heights, to be exact.

As the Twin Cities GLBT community welcomes the 2012 Gay Softball World Series, local organizers are fine-tuning the details to welcome teams from all over the United States. In all, up to 160 teams will participate in the Gay Softball World Series in five competitive divisions. Potentially, this represents over 3,000 athletes participating in the Series. Consider that the NAGAAA represents 44 leagues across North America. The TCGSL will be fielding ten teams in four out of the five divisions.

This is not the first time the Twin Cities hosted the Gay Softball World Series. The last time the area last hosted what is now one of the largest annual GLBT sporting events was in 1996. According to John Thomas, the Commissioner of the TCGSL, the 1996 Series hosted 120 teams. This will be the 36th NAGAAA World Series to be held since 1977.

To kick off the weeklong competition, the Series's Opening Ceremonies will be held at the Nicollet Island Pavilion. Miss Richfield 1981 will perform for the hundreds of visiting athletes and local supporters of the World Series. Even before the first pitch will be thrown, events are being held at various venues across the Twin Cities, with the host hotel being the Crowne Plaza Hotel near the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Other venues being used for World Series events are Seven restaurant, the Pantages Theater, Hell's Kitchen, Target Plaza, the EagleBolt bar, The Depot, and the Minneapolis Armory. Events at these venues range from social gatherings to traditional events, such as the Thursday's Hall of Fame Dinner at Seven. This year, the NAGAAA Hall of Fame will induct twelve new members, including TCGSL Commissioner Thomas.

Lavender Magazine's annual Out in The Stands event was also integrated onto the Series's schedule. The Minnesota Twins will face the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday, August 14 with a limited number of tickets made available to Series participants.

Some of these events will be fundraisers for local community non-profits. Among the benefactors for this year's Series events will be the Rainbow Health Collective, the Aegis Foundation, Project Healthy Smile, the Bridge for Youth, and various other local organizations.

Though these events provide opportunities for social interaction between the participants and the community, the most important piece of the Gay Softball World Series is the competition. The primary venue for the games will be Northview Athletic Complex in Eagan. Every Memorial Day weekend, the Northstar Classic tournament is held on these fields. The number of diamonds available, along with a history of use by the TCGSL, was one the primary reasons for the Twin Cities to be chosen to host this year's Series.

Other games will be held nearby at the Lexington Diffley Athletic Complex in Eagan and the Rich Valley Athletic Complex in Inver Grove Heights. Between the three venues, there will be a total of 18 fields scheduled for games throughout the week.

To add value to this year's Gay Softball World Series, the host hotel was positioned in proximity to the three field venues and to Metro Transit's Hiawatha light rail for access to events up in downtown Minneapolis. Out-of-town teams were also set up with six select hotels to choose from. These hotels were arranged with blocks of rooms made available to out-of-town participants either in downtown Minneapolis or right by the airport and Mall of America.

As part of the local effort to make the Series more accessible to everyone, volunteers were

enlisted to provide various functions to participants and fans alike. For example, some volunteers will serve as concierges throughout the week at the ball fields, the host hotel, and the Opening Ceremony to assist out-of-town guests. Additional volunteers serve to assist in every aspect of the Series—from field marshalling to backstage assistance at events. Thomas stated that "300 to 350 volunteers" will be utilized throughout the week. In all, "about 500 to 550 people that have been involved in some way," said Thomas, some of whom have been working behind the scenes in planning and executing the events in and around the Series.

This year's Series will introduce some new features never before seen in prior years. For example, local food trucks will be on site at the ball fields—a first for the NAGAAA World Series. Plus, Thomas mentioned that the Series is also "on the threshold of technological advances," making this event more team, player, and fan friendly. We should know more about these "technological advances" closer to the start of the Series.

Underneath the competition and the events around the Series is the human factor—especially when you have over 3,000 participants, volunteers, and other key individuals involved in this event. "Yes," said Thomas, "the softball is our mission, but it is more than a game. There are so many individual stories within the league, within NAGAAA, of coming out stories, of finding relationship stories." Thomas added that the players and other participants are usually "a very social group" that will be out and about.

When asked what you should do to get involved with the Gay Softball World Series, Thomas replied: "Come watch, participate, look at the schedule of all of the events that are going on, and get to know us."

In all, for the Twin Cities, Thomas concludes that this year's Gay Softball World Series "is a big thing—a really big thing."

For a full schedule of events and other information on the games, the teams, and ways to participate, log on to the Gay Softball World Series website at www.twincities2012series.org. □







Photos by Larry Barthel


TUESDAY AUG. 14
Presented by Ameriprise Financial
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Ketel One VODKA
LAVENDER
THE SALOON
INVITE YOU TO THE
OUT IN THE STANDS
POST GAME PARTY
Immediately following OUT in the Stands
at the Twins game (approximately 10pm)
No Cover Charge • Ketel One Drink Specials • Shower Boys • Giveaways
THE SALOON
830 Hennepin Ave. • Minneapolis • Only 3 Blocks from Target Field
www.saloonmn.com


7 DAYS OF SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES
AUGUST 13-19 • 2012
TWIN CITIES FOR THE LOVE
NAGAAA 2012 WORLD SERIES OF THE GAME
MONDAY 8.13
Hard Monday
TUESDAY 8.14
Out In The Stands
LAVENDER After Party
& Fiesta Latino Night
WEDNESDAY 8.15
DJ Thomas Ryan & Shower Guys
THURSDAY 8.16
Willam & DJ David B
SATURDAY 8.18
Closing Party
DJ David B
SUNDAY 8.19
Shower Contest
$500 Prize
FRIDAY AUGUST 17
chris cox
$5 Cover
TWIN CITIES LGBTQA GUIDE
scene
myscenecity.com
THE SALOON
SaloonMn.com • 830 Hennepin Ave Mpls • 612.332.0835

2012 Gay World Series Guide

Welcome to the 2012 NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series! We know you'll enjoy your stay in our fine state of Minnesota. To help you navigate your visit while you're not on the softball fields, Lavender has created a guide to the top hot spots in relation to your World Series events. Colors of activities can be matched to the map sections on the following pages.

You can view it in print as well as in our Online Magazine via iPad and iPhone Newsstand installation or by clicking "Online Magazine" at LavenderMagazine.com. Also, going to our Friends of Community Map (www.FOCMap.com) and choosing the category "Gay Softball World Series" will bring you instant access to these listings and locations online.

Schedule of Events:

Sunday, August 12
2:00pm - Pool Party, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bloomington

Monday, August 13
6:00pm - Opening Ceremony, Nicollet Island Pavilion, Minneapolis
8:00pm - GSWS Welcome Block Party, LUSH Food Bar, Minneapolis

Tuesday, August 14
6:00pm - NAGAAA 2012 and Beyond: The Way Forward GLBT Sports Discussion, Crown Plaza Hotel, Bloomington
7:00pm - Lavender's Out in the Stands, Detroit Tigers v. Minnesota Twins, Target Field, Minneapolis
After the Game - Out in the Stands Post-Game Party, The Saloon, Minneapolis

Wednesday, August 15
5:30pm - Talent Show (with proceeds going to GLBT organizations), Pantages Theatre, Minneapolis

Thursday, August 16
6:00pm - Hall of Fame Dinner (invite-only), SEVEN, Minneapolis
Team Dinners (on your own)
10:00pm - Wet Underwear Contest, CAMP Bar, St. Paul

Friday, August 17
9:00pm - Under the Big Top, eagleBOLTbar, Minneapolis
10:00pm - Underground Dance Party, Hell's Kitchen, Minneapolis

Saturday, August 18
5:00pm - Closing Party, The Depot, Minneapolis
9:00pm - Fleet Night, The Armory, Minneapolis
Underwear Party in the Underground and more Block Party, eagleBOLTbar, Minneapolis



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THE TWIN CITIES ULTIMATE "TO DO" LIST

The L List
Your connection to GLBT:

- News
- Events
- Drawings



SIGN UP AT LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM

Roger just saw Surdyk's daily menu online.



(Go get that delicious lunch, honey!)

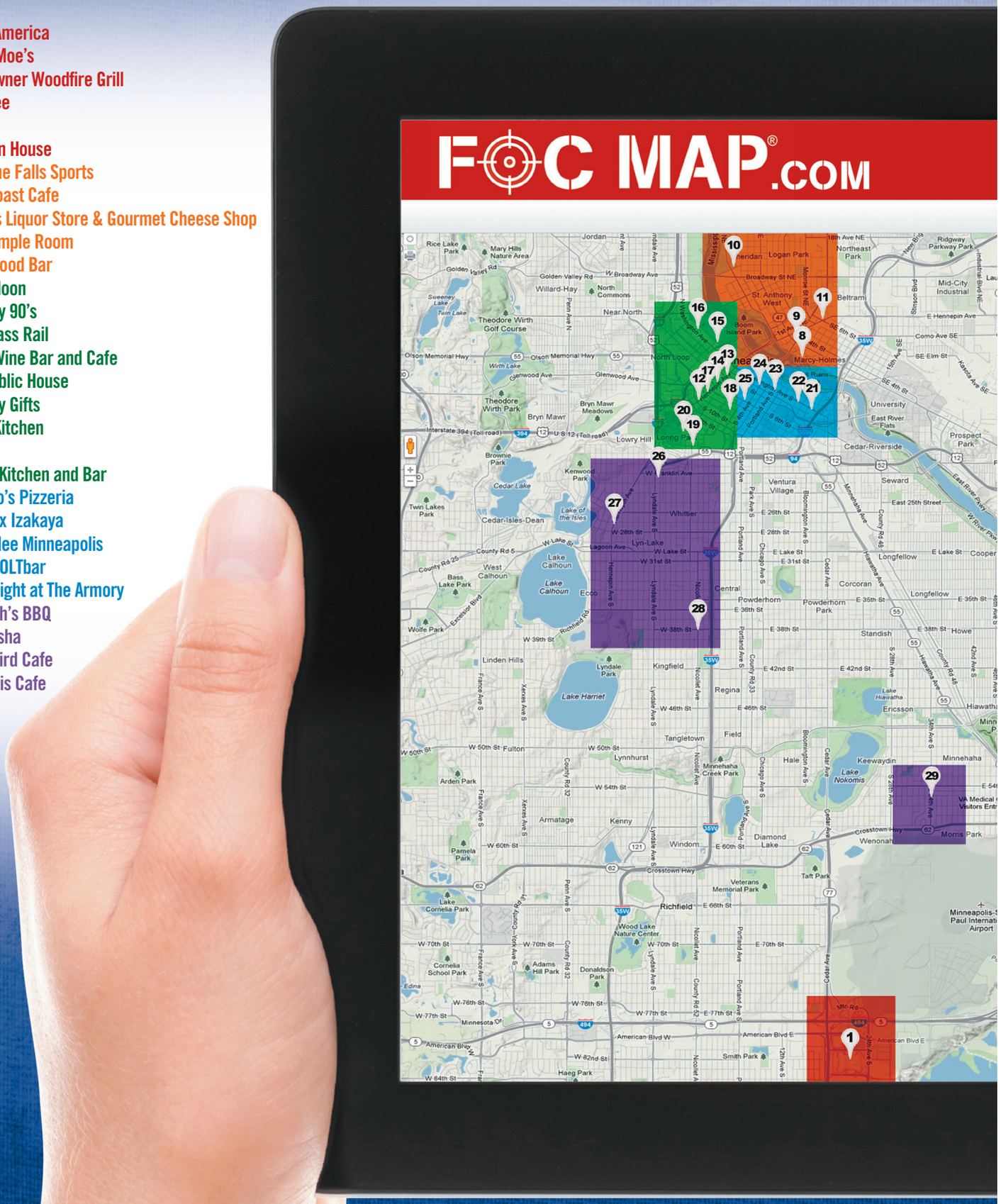
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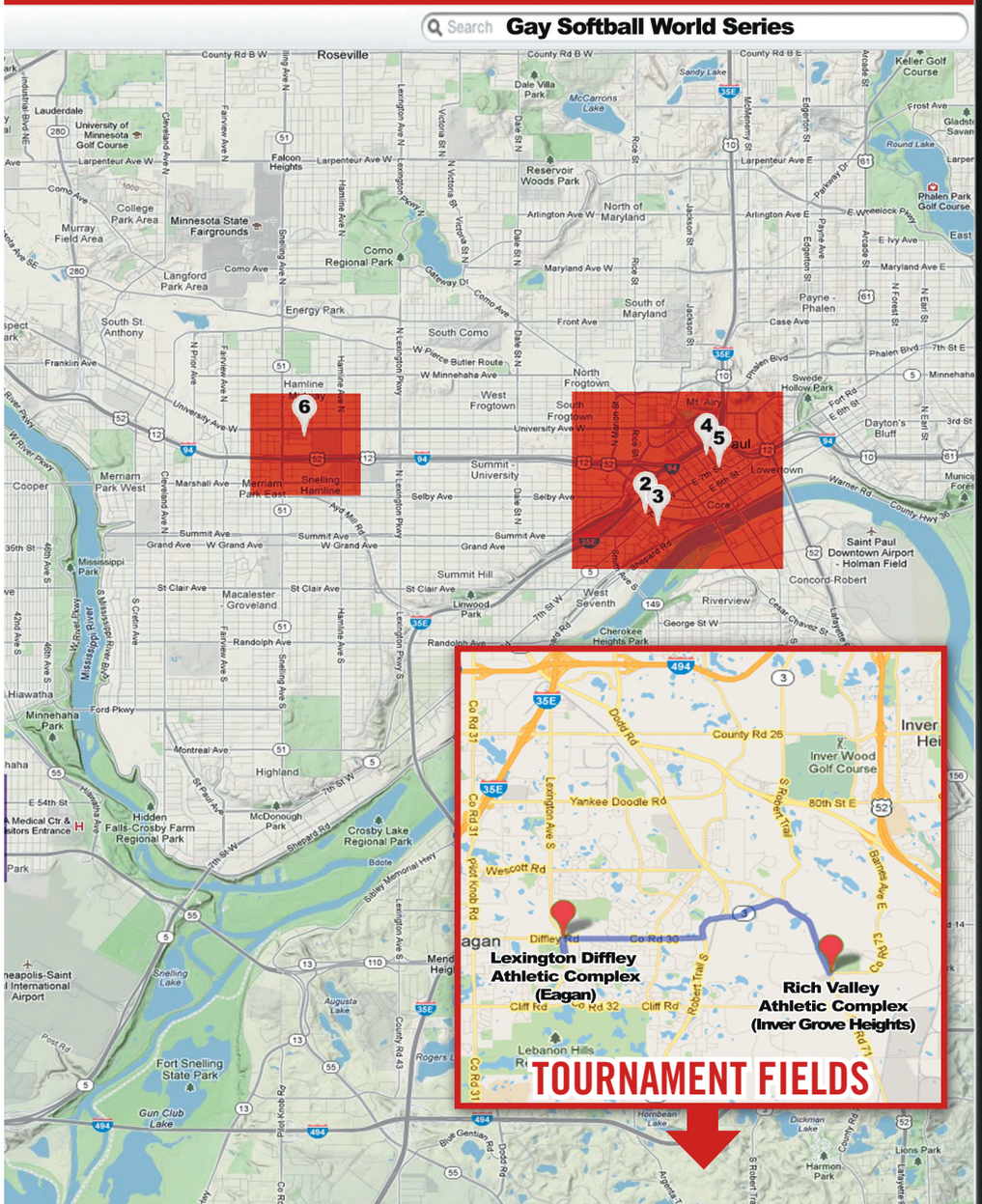
East Hennepin at University, NE Minneapolis www.surdyks.com

2012 Gay World Series FOC Map®

1. Mall of America
2. Burger Moe's
3. Downtowner Woodfire Grill
4. Sawatdee
5. Camp
6. The Town House
7. Above the Falls Sports
8. Wilde Roast Cafe
9. Surdyk's Liquor Store & Gourmet Cheese Shop
10. The Sample Room
11. LUSH Food Bar
12. The Saloon
13. The Gay 90's
14. The Brass Rail
15. Toast Wine Bar and Cafe
16. The Public House
17. Fantasy Gifts
18. Hell's Kitchen
19. 19 Bar
20. Loring Kitchen and Bar
21. Sarpino's Pizzeria
22. Zen Box Izakaya
23. Sawatdee Minneapolis
24. eagleBOLTbar
25. Fleet Night at The Armory
26. Rudolph's BBQ
27. Roat Osha
28. Blackbird Cafe
29. Nokomis Cafe



FRIENDS OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY MAP®



Home Base: Tournament Fields Area



The Twin Cities Metro Area is an ideal location for the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series. The fields and hotels located in Bloomington and Eagan are mere minutes from Downtown St. Paul, with the **Mall of America** planted firmly in between. A must-see for any visitor, the Mall of America is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and houses shopping, recreation, restaurants, a movie theater, and a central amusement park—enjoyment for all ages.

St. Paul is our lovely capitol city, containing history, science, restaurants, and two great gay bars. Okay, it's got more than that going for it, and we hope you get a chance to explore it for yourself. As you get closer to downtown St. Paul, you can choose from various eateries on historic West 7th. **Burger Moe's,** with a great patio, gives a more casual feel while the **Downtowner Woodfire Grill** classes up your dining experience with American and Persian flair.

If Thai is more your taste, pull out your chopsticks and head to **Sawatdee**, conveniently located near **Camp Bar** (another Sawatdee is near eagleBOLT bar in Minenapolis, as well). **Camp Bar**, "the closest gay bar to the World Series Diamonds," has beer busts, drink specials, and food specials Tuesday through Thursday as part of the World Series Week. If you're looking for a great patio and some pool and drag to go with your St. Paul GLBT experience, check out **The Town House Bar**, St. Paul's oldest GLBT bar, on University Avenue.

1. Mall of America
Shopping/Bars/Restaurants
South Ave, Bloomington
(952) 814-1900
www.mallofamerica.com

2. Burger Moe's
Bar/Restaurant
242 W 7th St, St Paul
(651) 222-3100
www.burgermoes.com

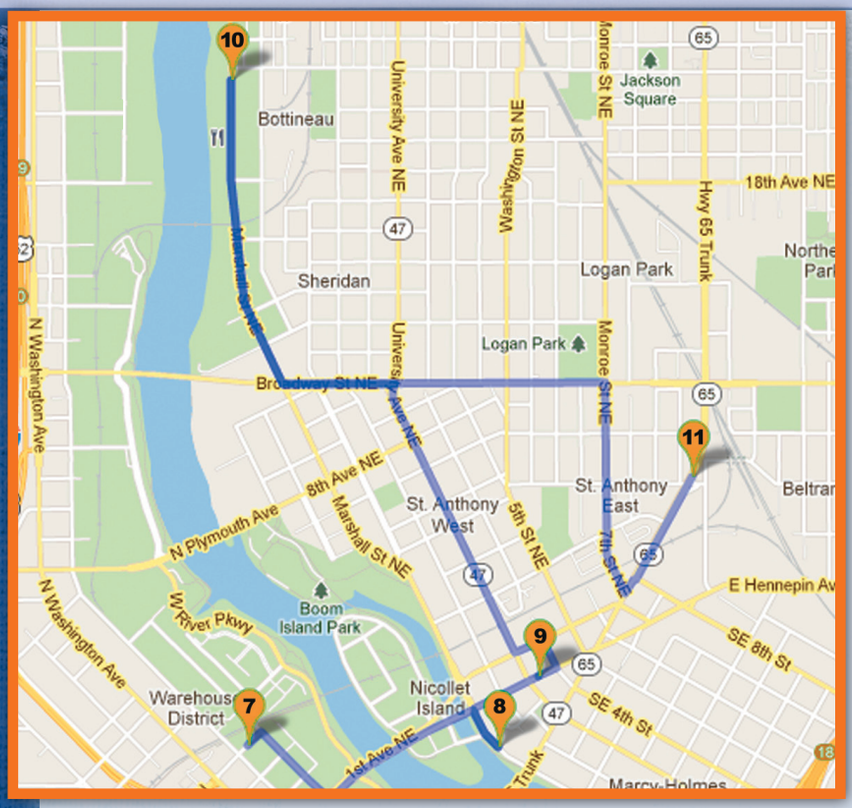
3. Downtowner Woodfire Grill
Bar/Restaurant
253 W 7th St, St Paul
(651) 228-9500
www.downtownerwoodfire.com

4. Sawatdee
Bar/Restaurant
486 Robert St N, Saint Paul
(651)528-7106
607 Washington Ave S, Mpls
(612)338-6451
www.sawatdee.com

5. Camp Bar
GLBT Bar/Restaurant
490 N Robert St, St Paul
(651) 292-1844
www.camp-bar.net

6. The Town House
GLBT Bar/Restaurant
1415 University Ave W, St Paul
(651) 646-7087
www.townhousebar.com

Area: Opening Ceremony on Nicollet Island, Mpls



MONDAY, AUGUST 13

The Opening Ceremony for the Gay Softball World Series is to be held on historic Nicollet Island on the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Surrounding this are a great many attractions that are unique to Minneapolis. Start at Riverplace where the oldest restaurant in Minneapolis is found as is the Gayest, as **Wilde Roast Cafe** was voted by *Lavender* readers last year. If you're in the area before the Opening Ceremony, you can rent kayaks, canoes, and rowing boats from **Above the Falls Sports** and get to know the Mighty Mississippi yourself.

Traveling into Northeast Minneapolis from Nicollet Island along Hennepin Avenue, you'll find a piano and polka bar of lore, various restaurants and bars, as well as **Surdyk's Liquor Store & Gourmet Cheese Shop** where you can take advantage of their Summer Spirits Sale. If you're in the mood for small plates, there's a delightful location further down the river into "Nordeast" called **The Sample Room** that'll also land you near old architecture, a tiki bar, and plenty of bars with strong drinks to crawl to.

Eventually, you'll want to get yourself to **LUSH's** GSWS Welcome Block Party that's being thrown in your honor Monday night.

7. Above the Falls Sports
Shopping/Sports
120 N. 3rd Ave
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 825-8983
www.abovethefallssports.com

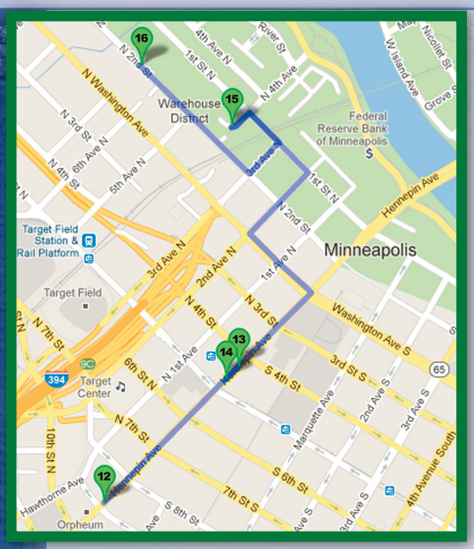
8. Wilde Roast Cafe
Bar/Restaurant
65 Main St SE, Mpls
(612) 331-4544
www.wilderoastcafe.com

9. Surdyk's Liquor Store & Gourmet Cheese Shop
Liquor/Gourmet Food Store
303 E. Hennepin Ave, Mpls
(612) 379-3232
www.surdyks.com

10. The Sample Room
Bars/Restaurants
2124 Marshall St NE, Mpls
(612)789-0333
www.the-sample-room.com

11. LUSH Food Bar
GLBT Bar/Restaurant
990 Central Ave NE, Mpls
(612) 612-0000
www.lushfoodbar.com

Area: Lavender's OUT in the Stands at Target Field
Area: Talent Show at Pantages Theatre

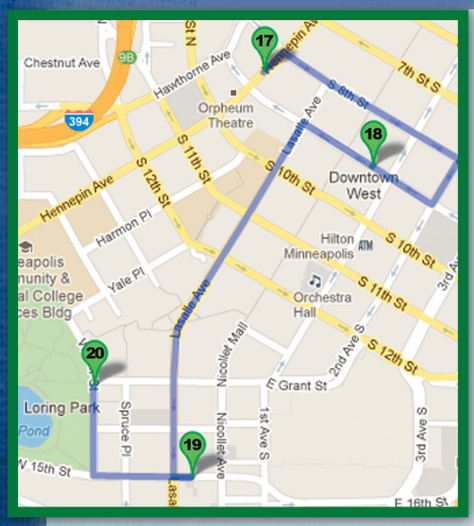


TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

After you watch the Minnesota Twins take on the Detroit Tigers at **Lavender's Out in the Stands** night at Target Field, stay downtown and make sure you get to **The Saloon** for Lavender's Out in the Stands Post-Game Party as one of its 7 Days of Softball World Series events.

You can also drop by the drag show at **The Gay 90's** or dance the night away on one of their many dance floors. Then head next door to **The Brass Rail** to enjoy their nightly Male Revue.

If the club scene isn't your thing, and you'd rather rest your weary feet, wine and dine at **Toast Wine Bar and Cafe** which prides itself on offering many local, organic wines. Or, enjoy some killer cuisine and frosty brews at **The Public House**. End the night by burning off all those delicious calories by meandering around the West River Parkway on the walking and biking trails.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

Strut your stuff at the Talent Show and then strut your stuff around Downtown Minneapolis. In case you want to spice up your stay, visit **Fantasy Gifts** on Hennepin Avenue near The Saloon, just down the street from the Pantages Theatre. If you want to check out **Hell's Kitchen** before the Thursday night dance party (or get what Lavender readers voted as the best breakfast in the Cities), descend into the hottest kitchen around, located between the Theatre District and Loring Park.

Loring Park is home to Minneapolis's gay village and the location for nearly all of the 40 years of Twin Cities Pride celebrations. The oldest gay bar in the country, the **19 Bar**, is a historical destination—you can take your picture with the Queen (hanging on the wall) and play some pool or darts. **Loring Kitchen & Bar** is whatever you want it to be: a fine dining destination, a casual patio with tasty noshes, and a bar with drinks that'll knock your socks off—all overlooking Loring Park.

12. The Saloon
GLBT Bar/Restaurant
830 Hennepin Ave, Mpls
(612) 332-0835
www.saloonmn.com

13. The Gay 90's
GLBT Bar/Restaurant
408 Hennepin Ave, Mpls
(612) 333-7755
www.gay90s.com

14. The Brass Rail
GLBT Bar/Restaurant
422 Hennepin Ave, Mpls
(612) 332-7245
www.thebrassraillounge.com

15. Toast Wine Bar and Cafe
415 N. 1st St
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 333-4305
www.toastwinebarandcafe.com

16 The Public House
700 Washington Ave. N.,
Minneapolis, MN. 55401
(612) 288-0606.
www.thepublichousempls.com

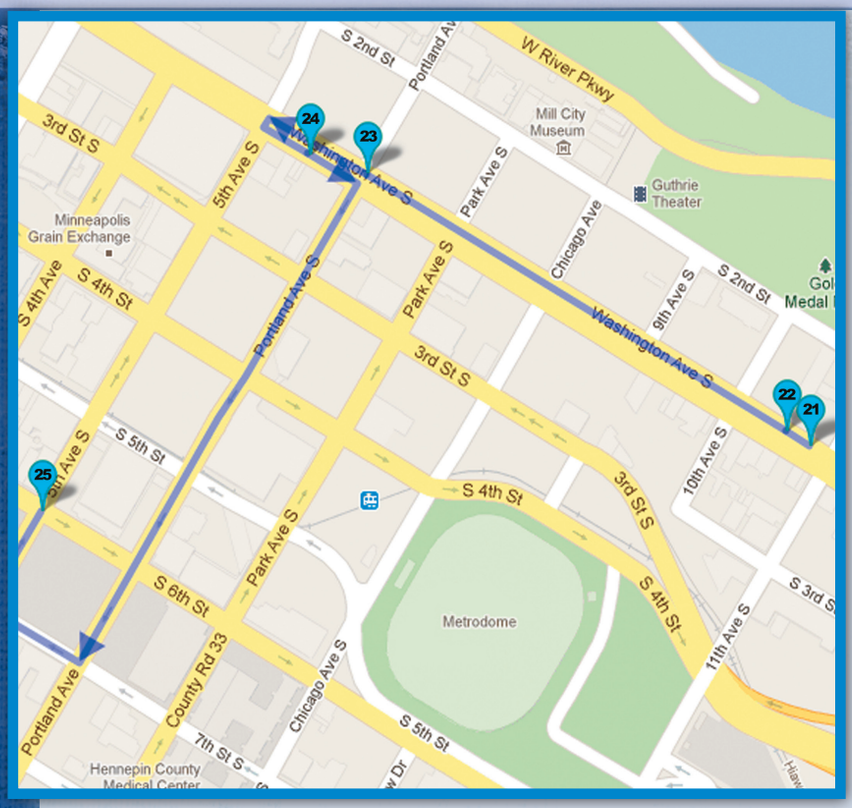
17. Fantasy Gifts
Adult Store (10 Metro Locations)
814 Hennepin Ave, Mpls
(612)355-5505
www.fantasygifts.com

18. Hell's Kitchen
Bar/Restaurant
80 S 9th St, Mpls
(612) 990-2581
www.hellskitcheninc.com

19. 19 Bar
Bar/Restaurant
19 W 15th St, Mpls
(612) 871-5553
www.19bar.itgo.com

20. Loring Kitchen and Bar
Bar/Restaurant
1359 Willow St, Mpls
(612) 843-0400
www.loringkitchen.com

Area: Closing Party at The Depot



SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

If you're looking to spend the day where you'll be ending it, start out at the Mill City Farmers Market. Pick up some libations at **Sorella Wine & Spirits**, and have a picnic in Gold Medal Park. Or, grab some small plates at the Japanese Eatery, **Zen Box Izakaya**.

Before you attend the Closing Party at the Depot, grab a slice at **Sarpino's** and walk to the Stone Arch Bridge and Mill Ruins Park. Find your way to the Endless Bridge at the world-renowned Guthrie Theater.

In the historic Armory building, party with your mates and meet some new ones at **Fleet Night**, the perfect way to end a perfect week. Whether you look like you just stepped out of the Navy or are simply donning your own dress whites, you'll be ready to mingle with seamen from across the country. Just don't go overboard...or do.

If your dress whites become too cumbersome, go to the Underwear Party at the **eagleBOLTbar** underground. For those of you who prefer to cover your bases, stay upstairs and clothed at the block party.

21. Sarpino's Pizzeria
Bar/Restaurant
1028 Washington Ave S, Mpls
612-455-8385
www.gosarpinos.com

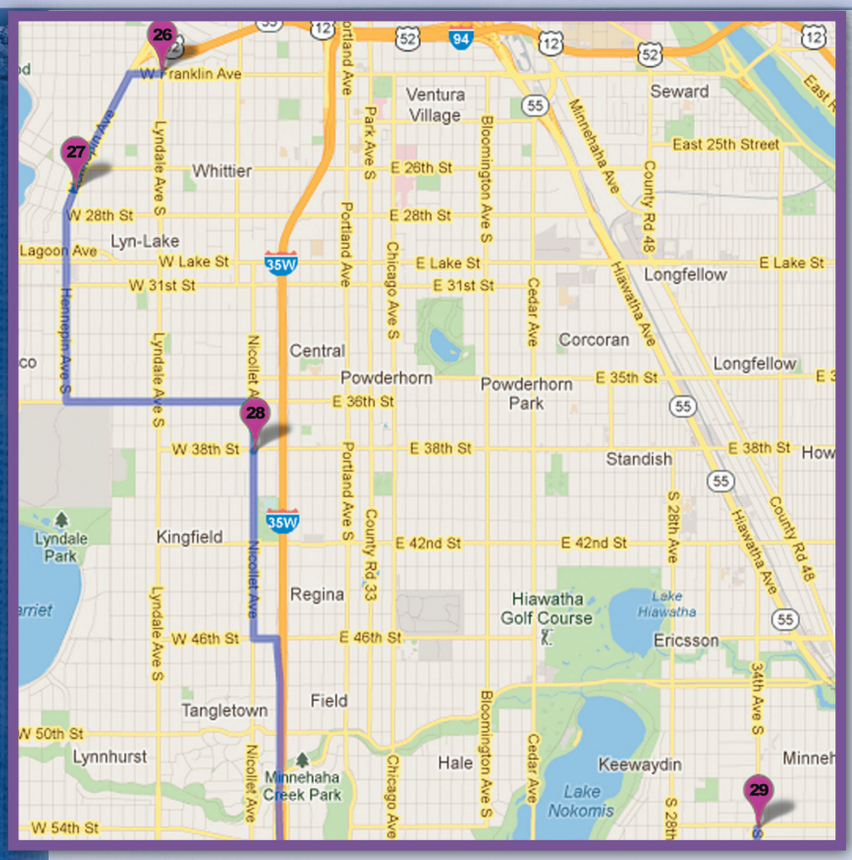
22. Sorella Wine & Spirits
Liquor Store
1010 Washington Ave S, Mpls
(612) 339-4040
www.sorellawines.com

23. Zen Box Izakaya
Bar/Restaurant
602 Washington Ave S, Mpls
612-332-3936
www.ZenBoxIzakaya.com

24. eagleBOLTbar
Bar/Restaurant
515 Washington Ave S, Mpls
(612) 338-4214
www.eagleBOLTbar.com

25. Fleet Night at The Armory
Event
500 S 6th Street, Mpls
twincities2012series.org/events

Area: Uptown and Lakes Attractions



Uptown is home to young and old, artsy people and hip, fresh places. There are boutiques, bars, and even a blues joint in and amongst enough restaurants to feed the whole World Series. On your way from Downtown Minneapolis to the Lakes, stop by **Rudolph's BBQ** for saucy ribs, or make time for Thai at **Roat Osha**.

Minnesota is the Land of 10,000 Lakes. We'd be remiss if we didn't highlight the Lake District in Minneapolis, the City of Lakes. As the place to see and be seen, Lake Calhoun is the belle of the ball with Lake of the Isles, Cedar Lake, Lake Harriet, and Lake Nokomis as beauties, each with its own personality. Enjoy some bistro fare at **Blackbird Cafe** or some diner favorites at **Nokomis Cafe**.

26. Rudolph's BBQ
Bars/Restaurants
1933 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls
(612) 871-8969
www.rudolphsribs.com

27. Roat Osha
Bars/Restaurants
2650 Hennepin Ave S, Mpls
(612) 377-4418
www.roatoshathai.com

28. Blackbird Cafe
Bar/Restaurant
3800 Nicollet Ave S, Mpls
(612) 823-4790
www.blackbirdmpls.com

29. Nokomis Cafe
Bar/Restaurant
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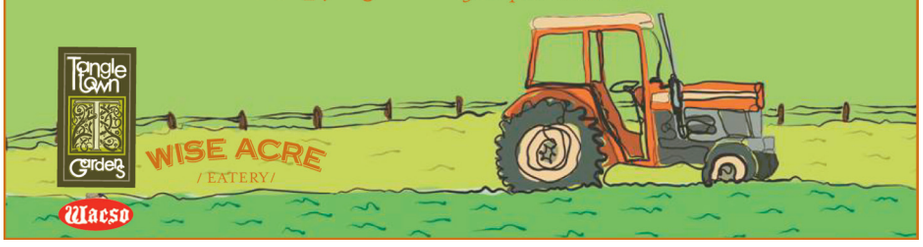
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2009: Partnered with College of Financial Planning to create the Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisor™ or ADPA™ program



2010: Became lead sponsor of GLSEN's Safe Space Campaign

1987 — 1992 — 2004 — 2009 — 2010 — 2012



1987: Wells Fargo includes "sexual orientation" in nondiscrimination statements

BEST PLACES TO WORK 2012 for LGBT Equality
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION
100% CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX

2004: "Gender identity/ expression" added to nondiscrimination policy; first 100% on HRC's new Corporate Equality Index received



2012: 25-year anniversary of adding sexual orientation to nondiscrimination clause

25 years ago, Wells Fargo made a commitment to create an inclusive workplace environment for LGBT team members. Since then, we have achieved several key milestones and look forward to many more over the next quarter-century.

Together we'll go far



wellsfargo.com/lgbt

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Q AND A WITH TWIN CITIES WORLD SERIES ORGANIZER BILL VENNE

TWIN CITIES FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME — NAGAAA 2012 WORLD SERIES

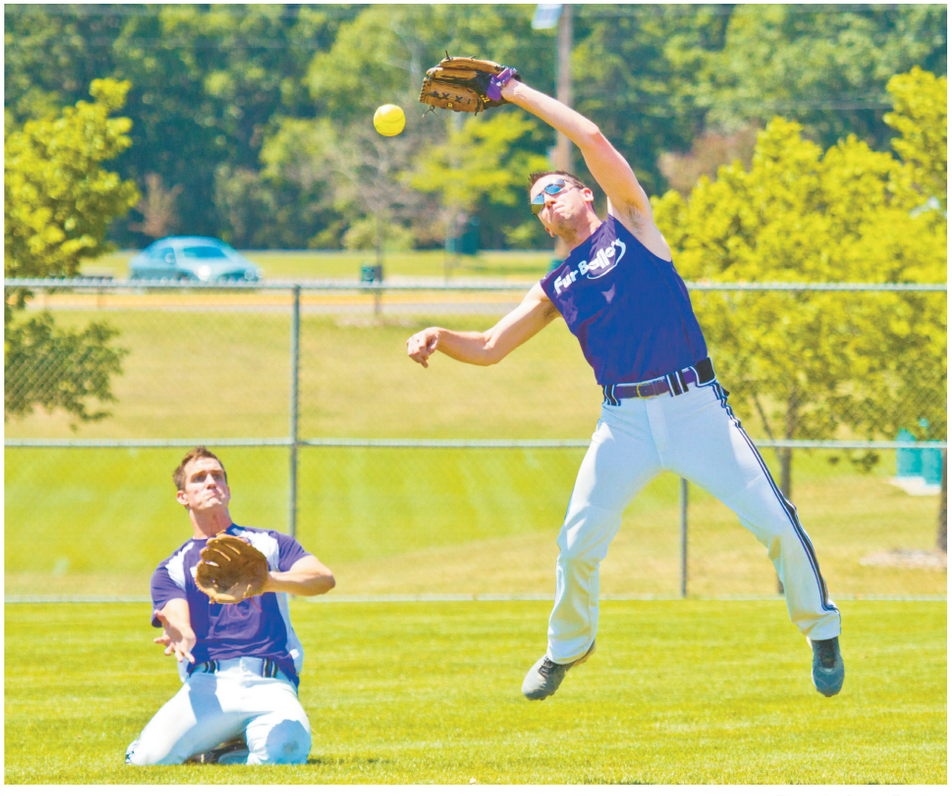


Photo by Larry Barthel

What is the NAGAAA Softball World Series?

The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance is the organizer of the Gay Softball World Series—the largest annual predominantly gay sporting event in the world. This year, it's being held in the Twin Cities for the first time since 1996. The Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League, which is entering its 34th year, is hosting this hallmark event. This year's World Series will be taking place August 13-18.

How does this event bring together the GLBT and wider community?

The World Series draws over 4,000 participants plus 1,000 fans from across North America and helps to strengthen the GLBT presence in our communities. This year, we estimate that the whole World Series event will bring in between $5-10 million in economic activity for the Twin Cities region. The World Series is a fun community event that benefits all those involved.

Will there be any activities helping to spread the word about the marriage amendment?

This event will be drawing a large number of local fans and players along with many out-of-state players and fans. This creates a unique opportunity for the World Series to support various national and local organizations. Minnesotans United for All Families is one of these organizations. They will be present in various capacities to help spread the word about this hurtful amendment that will be on Minnesota ballots in November.

What role do you feel sports play in building community and civic engagement?

The World Series brings together a diverse group of people to enjoy great company and competitive play. The host city must be welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant to support such a large-scale event. The Twin Cities without a doubt fulfills this description. We think it is important for all of our participants to be aware of the upcoming amendment and have the opportunity the engage in conversations about this important issue that directly affects our community. □





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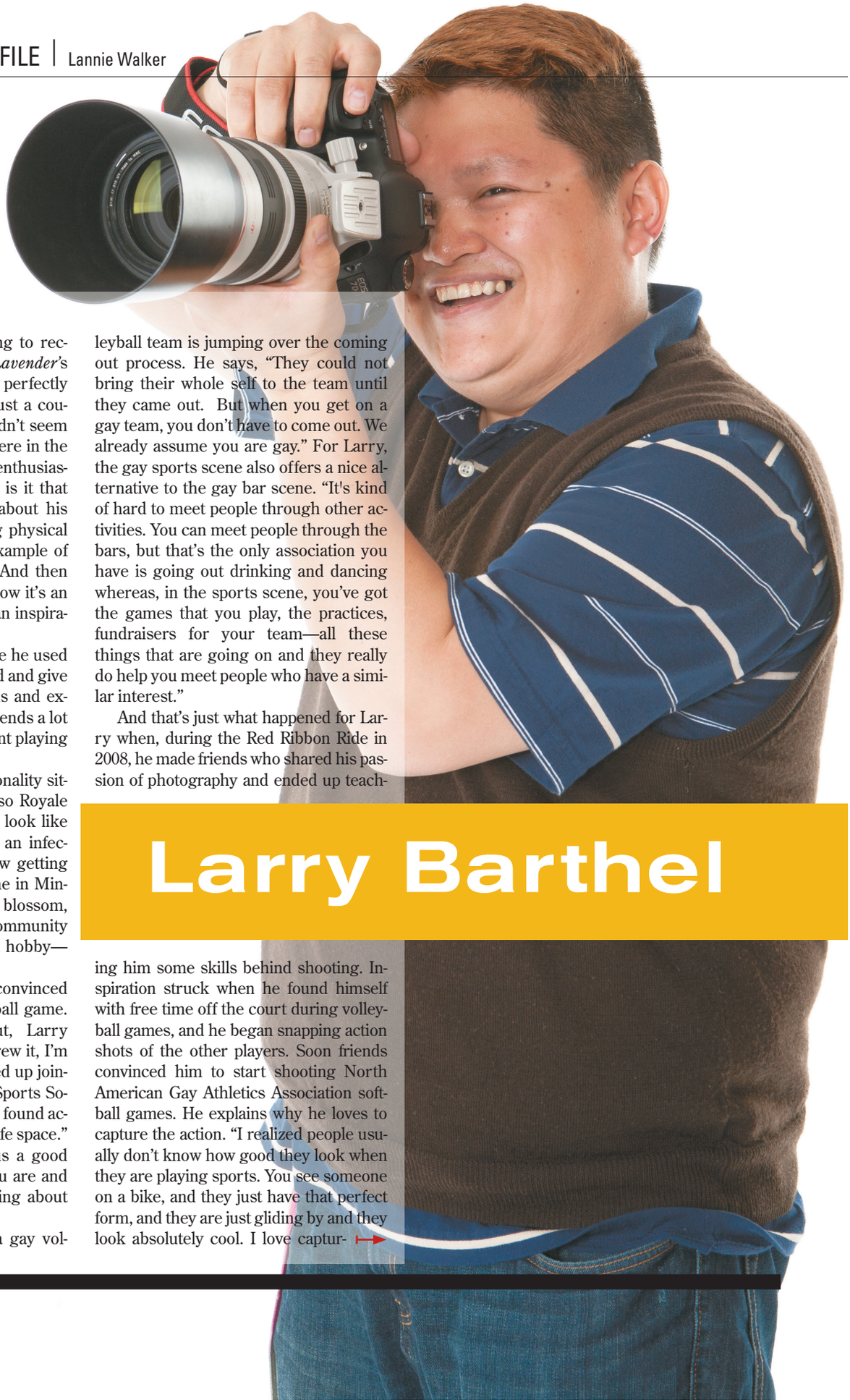
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SPORTS PROFILE | Lannie Walker



Larry Barthel

I SIT at my computer trying to reconcile the news from Andy (*Lavender*'s Managing Editor): A seemingly perfectly healthy, vivacious man I met just a couple of weeks had a stroke. It didn't seem possible. He is young, somewhere in the vicinity of 40, active, bright, enthusiastic, and full of life. How ironic is it that a guy I interviewed recently about his involvement in sports is facing physical impairment? I guess it's an example of how life is full of curve balls. And then on further reflection I realize how it's an even greater example of what an inspiration Larry is…

When Larry Barthel tells me he used to be a mushroom, I tilt my head and give him a quizzical look. He laughs and explains, "That's someone who spends a lot of time in a dark, damp basement playing video games." Oh, okay.

The man with a sunny personality sitting across from me at Espresso Royale in Dinkytown certainly doesn't look like a fungus. With olive skin and an infectious smile, Larry tells me how getting involved in the gay sports scene in Minneapolis has really helped him blossom, make friends, get involved in community events, and reunite with an old hobby—photography.

A few years ago, a friend convinced him to come along to a volleyball game. When the friend bowed out, Larry stepped up to the net, said "Screw it, I'm just going to go play," and ended up joining the Gay Lesbian Amateur Sports Society. Among his teammates, he found acceptance and what he calls a "safe space." "I think the gay sports give us a good environment to be whoever you are and be comfortable without worrying about being harassed."

Another appeal of joining a gay volleyball team is jumping over the coming out process. He says, "They could not bring their whole self to the team until they came out. But when you get on a gay team, you don't have to come out. We already assume you are gay." For Larry, the gay sports scene also offers a nice alternative to the gay bar scene. "It's kind of hard to meet people through other activities. You can meet people through the bars, but that's the only association you have is going out drinking and dancing whereas, in the sports scene, you've got the games that you play, the practices, fundraisers for your team—all these things that are going on and they really do help you meet people who have a similar interest."

And that's just what happened for Larry when, during the Red Ribbon Ride in 2008, he made friends who shared his passion of photography and ended up teaching him some skills behind shooting. Inspiration struck when he found himself with free time off the court during volleyball games, and he began snapping action shots of the other players. Soon friends convinced him to start shooting North American Gay Athletics Association softball games. He explains why he loves to capture the action. "I realized people usually don't know how good they look when they are playing sports. You see someone on a bike, and they just have that perfect form, and they are just gliding by and they look absolutely cool. I love captur-





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Photos by Larry Barthel

ing the moment and saying this is what you looked like when I saw you looking gorgeous going by."

It clicks for me then that Larry is now helping give others the same type of confidence he has gained from playing sports. "So you've gone from mushroom to…dandelion?" I ask in a feeble attempt to make a clever analogy. "No," he says shaking his head and grinning. "Dandelions are weeds…how about…sunflower?" Right. From mushroom to sunflower.

And that's where my article on Larry originally ended. When I heard from Andy about his stroke during this year's Red Ribbon Ride, I was shocked and reached out to him—first, of course, to tell him I hoped he was okay, and then to ask (ever the reporter) if he wanted to share his story. Larry responded to Andy and me and shared a candid account of what happened.

"On Saturday, July 21, while taking pictures and video for the Red Ribbon Ride near Northfield, MN, I suffered a severe stroke on the left side of my body. Due to a narrowed artery in my brain, a small blood clot from an untraced source got stuck and destroyed the part of my brain that manages the sensations on the left side of my body. That entire side of my body went immediately numb and at the same time hypersensitive, similar to how your face feels just after the anesthetic starts wearing off after a visit to the dentist. Fortunately, the stroke did not touch my mental faculties or my broad motor control—I am able to walk (though slowly) and am able to speak and think clearly. At the time of the stroke, I was sitting on the side of the road and taking photographs, so at least the timing did not put me into immediate peril. I flagged down one of the support vehicles for the Red Ribbon Ride and was taken the hospital, where I spent 10 days recovering and relearning some basic skills such as walking and typing. Thanks to everyone's help, I am once again able to type fairly normally."

Well, for anyone that knows Larry, you probably won't be surprised that he didn't stop at typing up an update on his condition. He took the time and effort to write about the Gay Softball World Series, coming to Minneapolis this month.

"Though I am not the official photographer for the GSWS in the Twin Cities this summer, I will be volunteering and participating in the festivities, including the Opening Ceremonies, the Hall of Fame Dinner, and the Closing Ceremonies (which will feature a slideshow video I will author of photos from the week). GSWS is such a tremendous opportunity for the local softball community that there is no way I couldn't participate in it somehow. Thousands of athletes from around the nation will be here to compete—how could I not stick around and point a camera or two at it? I think it's great that LGBTA folks from all over the nation can get together for friendly competition. Many people who meet through these sporting events become lifelong friends, forging alliances that cross geographic and cultural boundaries. It's a great way to stay active, meet new people, and engage in friendly competition, all in a LGBTA-safe environment."

As I read Larry's words, I realize I can't rewrite them any better. But, I do hope I can put into words a sentiment I know is felt by many: Thank you, Larry, for sharing your story. We wish you a full recovery, and we can't wait to see you out shooting again and flashing that megawatt "sunflower" smile. □




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Farm Dinners

Last summer, I experienced my first dinner on a farm. A cadre of chefs fretted over steaming grills, while guests reclined in chairs set up along a winding row of white tablecloth covered tables. A nearby brook babbled, as they're wont to do. The sommelier filled our glasses as she explained why she'd selected each variety. It was positively Gatsby-esque. An opulent table was set with glittering plates as guests, gorgeous in their fluttering summer wear soaked in the late season sun. Not only was I lucky enough to be served by such talented chefs, but also, the flavors were so much more immediate because of the nearness of the sources.

When each ingredient is plucked from the land at the peak of ripeness and delivered to a waiting plate, there's no need to worry about bruising, travel time, or shelf life. Most of the variables that can ruin flavor are taken out of the equation.

In addition to the taste benefits, there's also the fun of dining in the middle of the country and getting to enjoy the food with the people who raised it. Now that the fields are beginning to swing into high production, the table is set for some of our favorite yearly summer feasts.

Wise Acre Eatery's food is largely sourced from their nearby Tangletown Garden. They invite their guests out to the farm just 40 miles southwest of the Cities on Sunday, August 26. Wise Acre's Chef Beth Fisher and her kitchen crew will be preparing the food and wine pairings will be done by Caroline Glawe. Tickets are $165. Call 612.822.4769 for reservations.



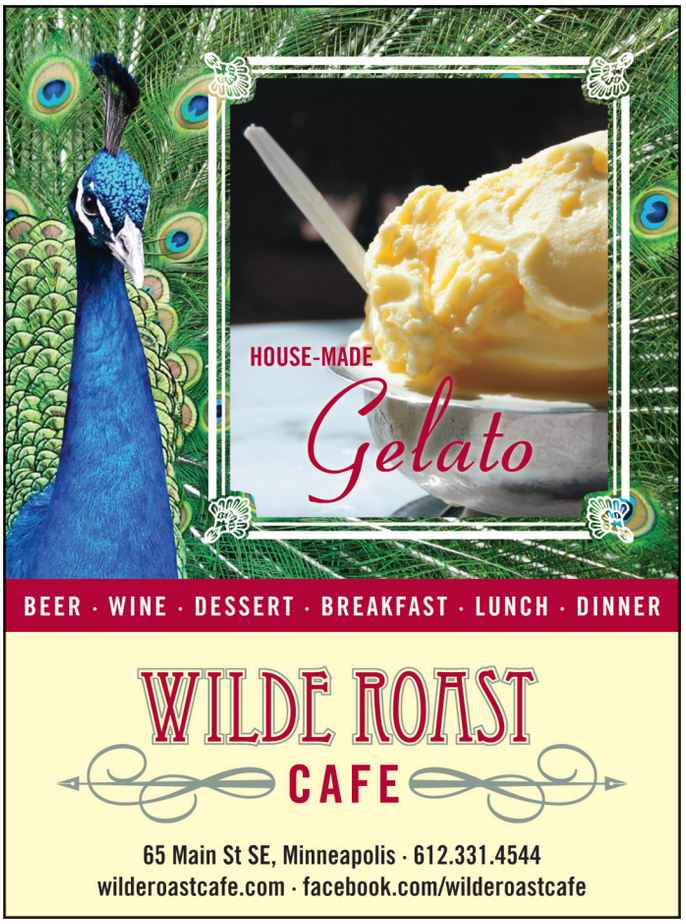


Guests share farm-fresh food (above), an elegant dinner under the open sky (below). Photos courtesy of Wise Acre Eatery


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A friendly menu and the localest of local fare. Photos courtesy of Wise Acre Eatery

Open Arms, a nonprofit we're all big fans of here at *Lavender* HQ, is also getting in on the harvest dining. On Sunday, August 19, they are hosting dinner at their 3-acre farm in Belle Plaine. Tickets are $150 and the price includes a free shuttle from Open Arms in South Minneapolis out to the farm. Farm Director Ben Penner will also lead guests on a tour and explain a little bit about the importance of Open Arms being able to feed sustainably raised food to those in need of their services. They are doing so much more than just filling empty stomachs–they're nourishing our neighbors–and at this dinner, you'll have the chance to experience just a little bit of that goodness. RSVP to nancy@openarmsmn.org

Dinner on the Farm gathers some of the Cities' best chefs and takes them out to area producers to dine al fresco. There are a few dinners for the rest of the season that still have availability, but the dinner I'd most like to attend is Birchwood Café's chef Marshall Paulsen on September 23. The dinner will be held at River's Bend farm on Crow River. Paulsen is a master when it comes to cooking seasonally (with Birchwood being one of the best Farm to Table restaurants around). Tickets are $75 and include the meal and locally brewed beer. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Seward's Children's Peace Garden. Tickets available at dinneronthefarm.com

Outstanding in the Field is a national farm tour. It's making a stop in Minneapolis/St. Paul for a meal with farm dinner advocate Chef Scott Pampuch. He teams up with his cohort in pig fandom Mike Phillips, operating his Three Sons Meat Company. Last minute tickets might still be available for August 9 for $200. The farm they're working with is Little Foot Farm in Afton, MN. More at outstandinginthefield.com.

Slow Food, MN is partnering with Erik Sather, chef at the celebrated Bar La Grassa and Garden Farme (who supply BLG) for **Basil Snail**. Slow Food is a nonprofit that educates the public about the benefits of local, seasonal food. The day will include a pesto demo, a garden walk, and a talk about the connection between farmers and consumers. This is a family-friendly event and more modestly priced at $45 for non-members, but kids 12 and under get in free. Buy tickets at slowfoodmn.org. □

NEWSY BITS

Kaskaid Hospitality, parent of **Crave,** continues their bid for world domination. First, it's **Figlio 2.0**. Their Soprano's restaurant, in the Shops at West End will be reborn as Figilio, keeping Chef JP Samuelson. Next, it's been revealed that they are opening **Union** (just a block from Crave) featuring a dramatic year-round patio. A giant, glass retractable ceiling will allow guests to eat under the Minnesota sky no matter the temperature. The kitchen will be run by former **Il Gatto** chef (which used to be the original Figlio), Jim Christiansen. It's like the restaurant news equivalent of a Christopher Nolan movie, lots of unraveling.

Foxy Falafel is open for business! The restaurant that moved into the former Caribe space (before that Chet's Taverna) is now serving their world class falafel. So far I'm enamored with the curry, full of flavor, but easy on heat. The free seasonal pickle bar is also irresistible.

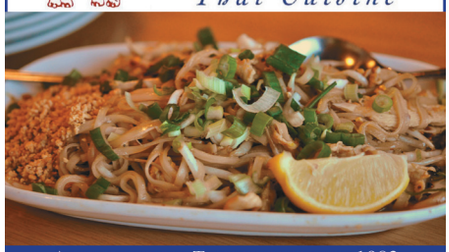
More new food trucks are on the streets. I was happy to check out Awesome Eats, Sayo, and MidNord. **Awesome Eats** has sandwiches that he's not afraid to top with french fries. It's the right kind of wrong. **Sayo** is serving Filipino foods and every dish I tried was a great balance of sweet, salty, spicy and savory. **MidNord** is serving all manner of empanadas, my favorite was the Argentinian beef with the puckery perfect mojo sauce. Next I'll have to get that Minnesota apple pie dessert.

Minneapolis got some national love from *Food & Wine,* declaring us the best "on the rise food city" and one of the best-priced. Pssh, we already knew that.

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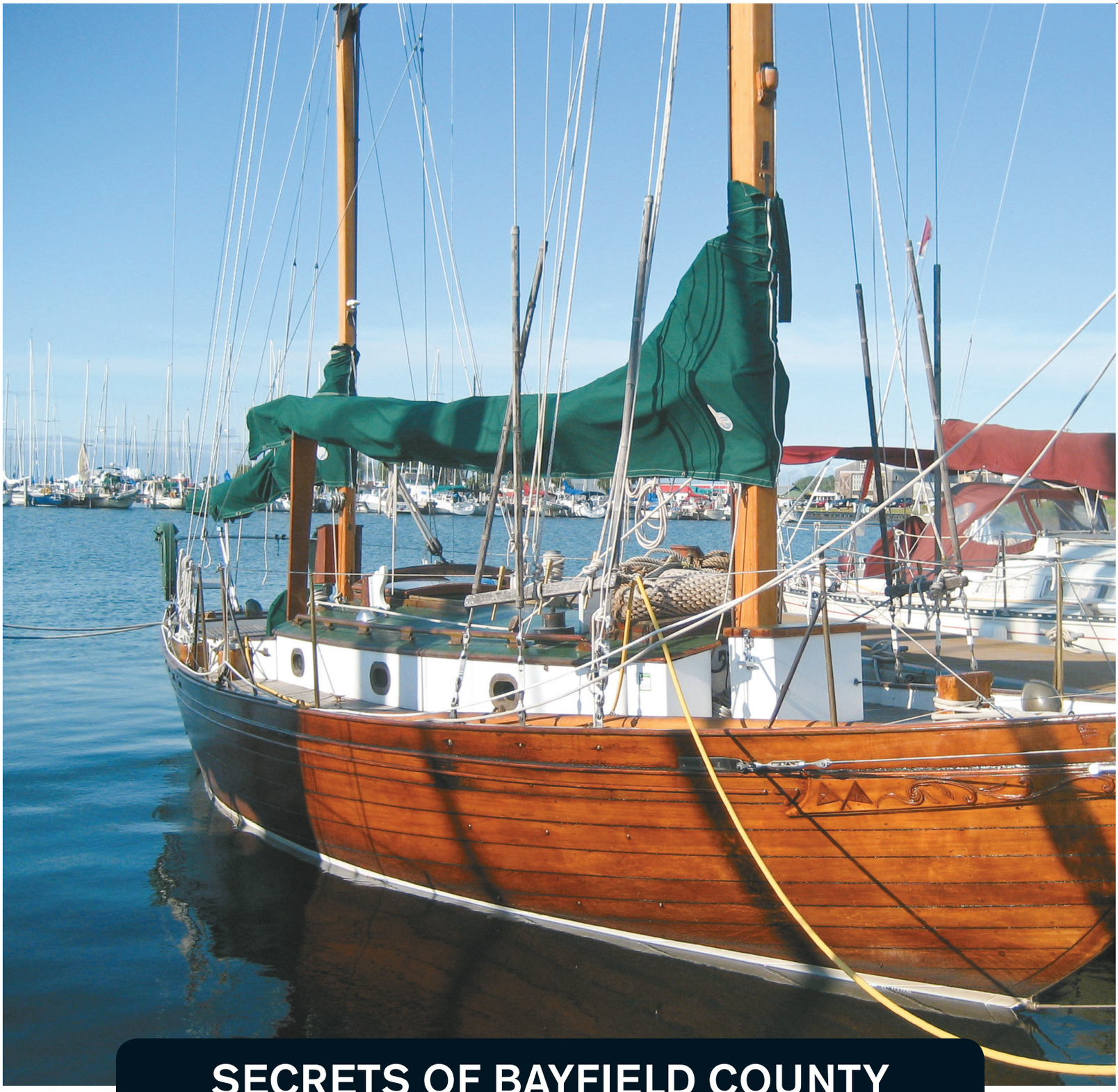
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SECRETS OF BAYFIELD COUNTY

by Kristin Thompson

YOU'VE PROBABLY been to Bayfield, Wisconsin. Or, at the very least, heard of its myriad charms: stately Victorian B & Bs, sailboats skipping between islands that rise in low mounds out of Lake Superior, sweet little shops where you can find ice cream, a bottle of wine or a well-selected novel—whatever your pleasure. Indeed, Bayfield is so charming that many visitors, utterly entranced by those first fresh lake breezes, never bother to venture beyond the compact downtown.

On a recent weekend visit, my partner and I tracked down some of the hidden pleasures to be found in greater Bayfield County. After settling the dog at the kennel, we set our sights northeast. Freeway gave way to state highway, and we passed through summer resort towns shimmering as the heat of the day built up. Midway through



A stately sailboat. Photo by Kristin Thompson

the Chequamegon National Forest, we jagged off the main road towards the Delta Diner.

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Le Chateau Boutin features some of the best views you'll find of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands. Photo by Kristin Thompson

items. We enjoyed thin Norwegian pancakes, one laced with jalapenos, and a "Mex Benny" composed of dense cornbread, eggs, and chorizo gravy. If you don't think you have room for dessert, you should order some anyway. The pies (triple chocolate pudding and lemon sour cream) were among the best I've sampled. If you don't have time for a meal, the neighboring Diner Store has coffee, outstanding baked goods, and other provisions to go.

Amply refueled, we continued to the White Winter Winery in Iron River for a tour and mead tasting. Normally a grape wine drinker, I was amazed at the range of styles and flavors that owner John Hamilton coaxes from honey and fruit. Bayfield County is home to more Travel Green Wisconsin certified businesses than any other county. At White Winter, sustainability is embedded throughout the business, from sourcing ingredients locally to composting the waste generated. Time your visit right, and you can attend one of the Winery's Summer Porch Concerts, culminating in a pig roast held over Labor Day weekend.

After heading east on Highway 2, we caught our first glimpse of Lake Superior from the observation tower at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. While the Center is handy for a quick orientation stop as you enter the area, you may find yourself lingering to view the well-curated exhibits, feed the fish in the pond, or walk the trails.

Entering the final stretch towards Bayfield, you might be tempted to skip the lakeside town of Washburn. Don't. Washburn has a laid-back, artsy scene that makes it a worthwhile stop. Cafe Coco offers fresh, hearty breakfasts and lunches featuring their handcrafted breads and pastries. You'll have the chance to burn off your meal while wandering through the town's art galleries or along the lakeside path. We took a short drive into the rolling hills above town to stop at Tetzner's Dairy. The farm store isn't staffed–just write your purchases (in pencil!) on one of the well-worn envelopes and leave exact change.

Our dinner destination was Good Thyme restaurant, housed in an impeccably restored prairie style house just north of downtown Washburn. The owners have created a warm and convivial atmosphere, offering inventive cocktails and a modern American menu that hits both modern and classic touches. I, for one, couldn't resist the traditional Friday fish fry, while my partner enjoyed a burger made with the restaurant's blend of chuck, brisket, and short loin.

Stage North theater and bar lies at the heart of Washburn–literally and figuratively. This intimate performance space hosts ↦

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a broad calendar of plays, musicians, and other events putting local talent on display. On our visit, we took in Twin Cities favorites Kevin Kling (his mom lives in Washburn) and Simone Perrin, while the fall calendar includes performances of *Sylvia* and *Church Basement Ladies*. The soaring lobby bar, complete with lake views, is a local watering hole even when no events are scheduled. Take your pre-show drink out to the terrace and try, I dare you, not to daydream about chucking it all to move to the shores of Lake Superior.

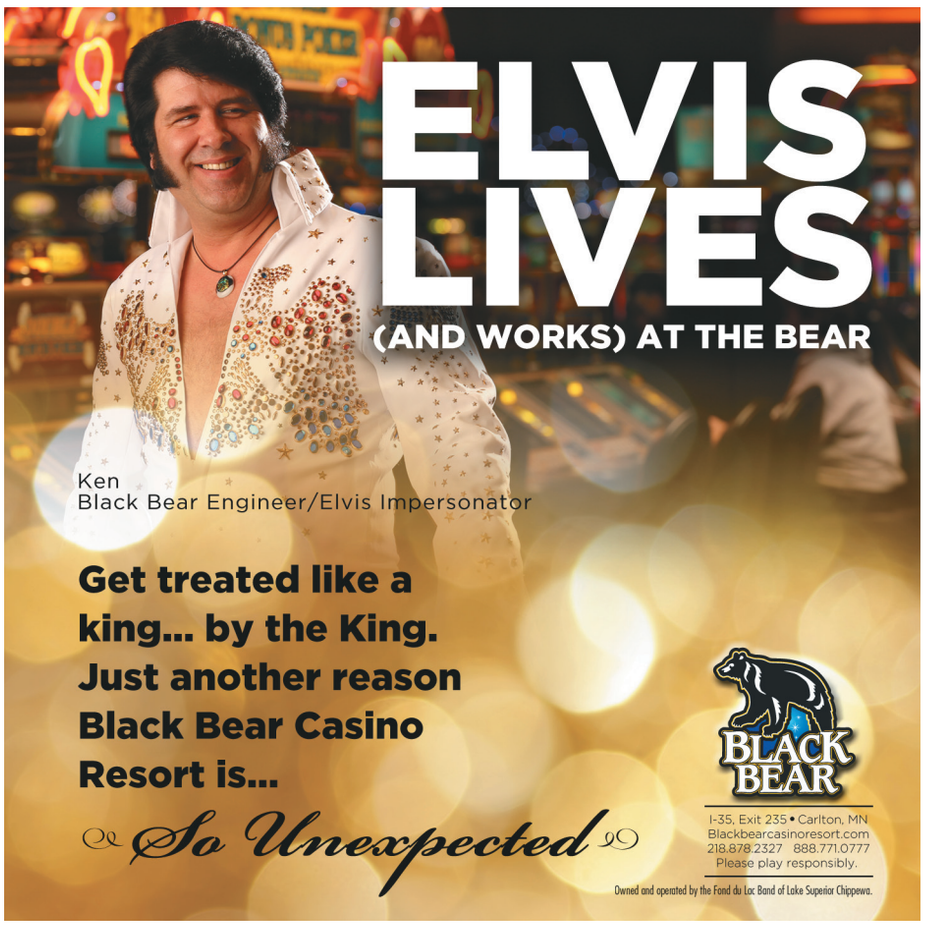
Upon arriving in Bayfield proper, we checked in at Le Chateau Boutin, sister property to grande dame the Old Rittenhouse Inn. Owners Jerry and Mary Phillips took a chance on Bayfield over 35 years ago, and their hospitality keeps guests coming back season after season. The five-course dinner at the Inn's Landmark Restaurant, with menu choices delivered verbally at each table, is an anniversary tradition for many couples.

Another Bayfield tradition is to take in a show at the Big Top Chautauqua. Essentially a circus tent perched at the base of Mount Ashwabay Ski Hill, this eclectic venue presents performers like Greg Brown and Mary Chapin Carpenter along with house-produced variety shows featuring storytelling and historical themes.

The next morning, after picking up a cuppa from Bayfield's Big Water Coffee Roasters, we started the day with a walk out on the city dock. We sat for a while in the crisp sunshine, watching the town wake up and listening to the Madeline Island Ferries come and go from the terminal. Before long, we tucked into a square breakfast at the nearby Egg Toss Cafe. When local berries are in season, a giant bowl makes the perfect accompaniment to your meal.

The farms and orchards a few minutes west of Bayfield are a destination for many visitors. Our stop at North Wind Organic Farm supplied us with strawberries and jam to take home. Fall's bounty includes blueberries, apples, pears, grapes, plums, pumpkins, and other harvest treats. Pick up a brochure in town for a helpful map and guide to the farms. Bayfield serves as the gateway to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. To explore the islands, which are scattered northeast around the Chequamegon peninsula, getting out on the water is a must. If you don't travel equipped with a private yacht, local tour operators fill the breach, offering tour boat, sailboat, and kayak excursions ranging from an afternoon to several days or longer. We joined Dreamcatcher Sailing's Captain Jen Lanzer and her partner for a sailing excursion to the sea caves on the north side of the peninsula, near Cornucopia. While flat winds dampened our adventure, the dramatic sea caves, carved in the sandstone bedrock by the sheer force of water, were impressive even through the drizzle. When the wind picked up for a time, Captain Jen taught this landlubber some of the rudiments of sailing.

While Lake Superior dominates, small rivers and streams subtly shape the peninsula's landscape. Many locals recommended waterfalls as some of their favorite scenic spots. Houghton Falls State Natural Area, accessible via a short hike from a trailhead north of Washburn, protects rocky outcrops, a waterfall, and incredible ↦





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lake views. Just east of Cornucopia, a series of waterfalls are easily reached from a bridge crossing the Siskiwit River; just park and locate the path hugging the river downstream from the bridge.

Our getaway concluded with a drive on Highway 13, which wraps around the peninsula and eventually hugs Wisconsin's South Shore. In Cornucopia, poke around for awhile in Ehlers General Store. Boasting organic produce, groceries, deli, and hardware, Ehlers carries just about everything needed by locals and tourists alike. We stocked up on locally sourced goodies to bring back, including smoked Lake Superior trout, beans from Northwestern Coffee Mills, and Spirit Creek Farm sauerkraut. Beyond Cornucopia, the towns get even smaller. In Herbster, we marvelled at the campground plopped right on the beach, imagining how glorious it could be to wake up and wriggle your toes in Lake Superior sand. After browsing in a pottery studio housed in a former Port Wing church, we reluctantly struck out for home.

Bayfield's most famous fall attraction is its Apple Festival, held the first weekend of October. Other highlights include The Old Rittenhouse Inn's Fall Brew and Red Wine weekends and White Winter Winery's Annual Emergency Pig-Out. Bayfield's food-centered Fall Harvest Celebration is ongoing in September and October. www.bayfieldcounty.org

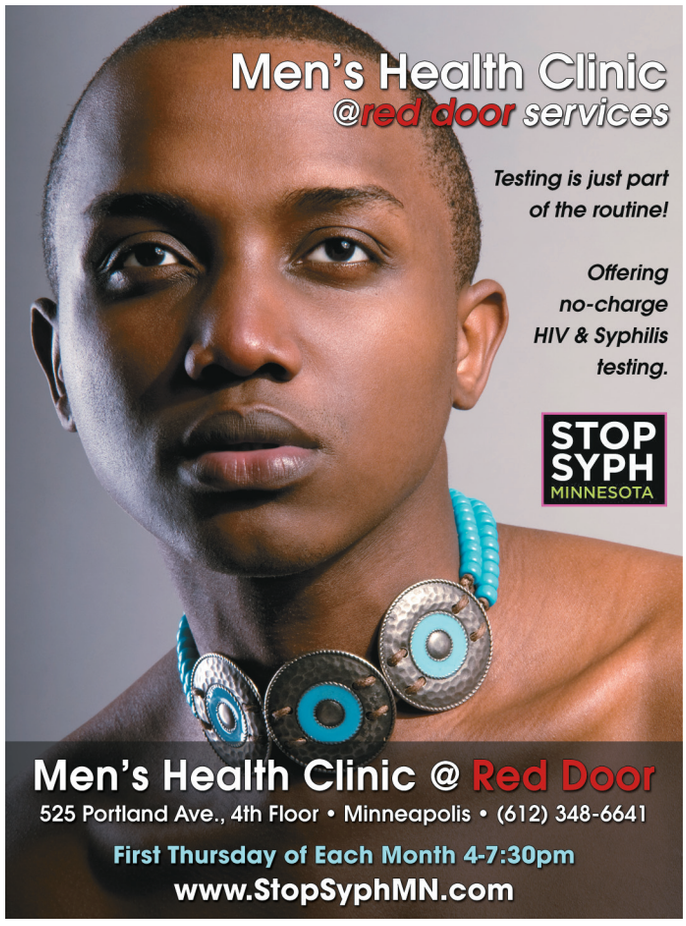






Grab a steamy latte from Big Water Coffee Roasters (opposite), a funky meal at Delta Diner with pie (top and right), and some locally sourced goodies at Ehlers Store (above). Photos by Kristin Thompson





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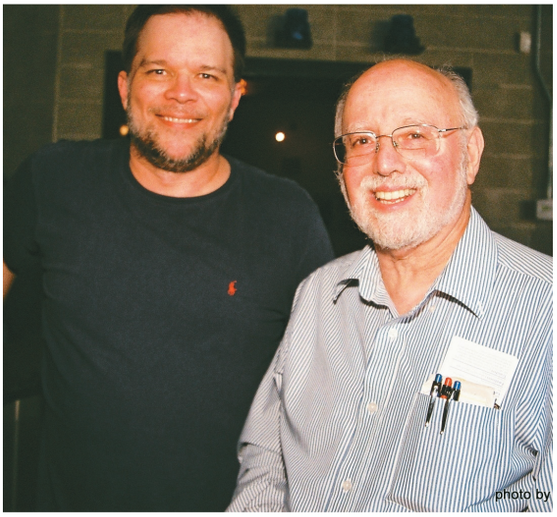
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PRIDE IN PICTURES COVER

I just want to say that I was very disappointed that you cast votes to determine the cover of the Pride [in Pictures] issue, making it some kind of popularity contest instead of a thoughtful and strategic way to capitalize on the VOTE NO momentum that swept through the park this year. I think the magazine missed a real opportunity to emphasize the importance of defeating the amendment in this state and that is a moment you can't get back.

MICHELLE MORAN
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Gay Marriage Heads to DNC Platform

Politico.com reports that Democrats are set to endorse marriage equality for their convention platform, but neither the party nor the Obama campaign wanted to elaborate. Six states have legalized gay marriage, and three more have legalization measures on the ballot for November, but the increase in acceptance of the issue hasn't done anything to minimize its political touchiness this election year.

Some Companies Take a Stand In Gay Marriage Fight,
The *Washington Post* reports that a number of business executives have come out on the issue of marriage equality. Washington United for Marriage, a coalition that seeks to uphold a gay marriage law that passed in Washington, announced that Amazon.com's Jeff Bezos and his wife MacKenzie will donate $2.5 million to its cause. Microsoft founder Bill Gates and CEO Steve Ballmer each donated $100,000 to help keep gay marriage legal. On a different note, Chick-fil-A President and Chief Operating Officer Dan Cathy recently opined that Chick-fil-A is "very much supportive of the family—the biblical definition of the family unit."

Gay Marriage Foes Ask Supreme Court to Uphold California Ban
Reuters.com reports that marriage equality opponents asked the Supreme Court to uphold a California ban on gay matrimony that was struck down by two lower courts as a violation of the Constitution. The request comes from the backers of Proposition 8, a voter-approved state constitutional amendment defining marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

Connecticut Judge Rules US Gay Marriage Law Unconstitutional
The Wall Street Journal reports that a judge in Connecticut ruled that a part of a federal law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman and denies tax, health and other benefits to married gay couples is unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Vanessa L. Bryant in Hartford issued a decision saying the provision in the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act violates the Fifth Amendment right to equal protection. Bryant wrote the provision "obligates the federal government to single out a certain category of marriages as excluded from federal recognition, thereby resulting in an inconsistent distribution of federal marital benefits."

Florida Lieutenant Governor Says Sorry For "Black Lesbians Don't Dook Like Me" Comment
NewsOne.com reports that Florida Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll apologized for offending lesbians when she said black women who engage in such relationships don't look like her. Carroll was implying that black lesbians aren't attractive. She denies a fired staffer's claims that Carroll and a female travel aide were found in a compromising position.



Colorado Baker Target of Gay Protest for Not Baking Wedding Cake
Examiner.com reports that the owner of Masterpiece Cake Shop in Lakewood, Colorado, refused to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple. Dave Mullin and Charlie Craig went to the cake shop thinking they would try cakes. Upon leaving, Craig told the owner, "Fuck you and your homophobic cake shop."

Cheney Defends His Silence on Gay Marriage in 2000
ABC News reports that Dick Cheney says that even though he supported gay marriage, he didn't see the point of raising the issue in the 2000 presidential campaign. The former vice president suggested speaking out probably would have sunk President George W. Bush's prospects for office. Mary Cheney, Dick's daughter, married her partner in June.

Romney Ran "Most Gay-Friendly" Olympics
The *Salt Lake Tribune* reports that Mitt Romney helped make the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics "one of the most gay-friendly games in Olympic history." Romney worked to diversify the games, being "very, very supportive of increasing the diversity of the workforce." Romney's past support of the gay community is a contrast to his current campaign positions. Salt Lake City attorney Laura Miliken Gray said, "We were good enough to volunteer at the Olympics, but we're not good enough for equal rights now." □

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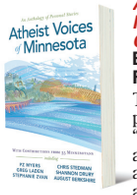
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MAYA: DIVINE KINGS OF THE RAIN FOREST
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A feast for the eyes and the understanding, this large volume is replete with hundreds of photos, maps, and texts on a broad spectrum of the Mayan cultures by twenty-six specialists in their fields. Presenting much new information on the Mayan people, their language, and their works, chapters include essays on "Habitats and Early Horizons," "Architecture and Art," "Religious Beliefs," "The Colonial Era," and "The Maya in the Present," among others. The essays are concise, offering material rich in depth and detail, yet easily accessible to the reader. The Appendix contains a glossary, an overview of historical sites, selected museums worldwide together with their contact information, a timeline, charts of the ruling dynasties with accompanying hieroglyphs, and remarks on the writing and pronunciation of Mayan.



ATHEIST VOICES OF MINNESOTA: AN ANTHOLOGY OF PERSONAL STORIES
Ed. Bill Lehto
Freethought House - $20

Thirty-six Minnesotans share their paths to Atheism in topics involving "Life as an Atheist," "Coming Out as an Atheist," "Letting Go of Faith," and "Ethics and Action." The voices are as varied as the speakers in this intriguing exploration of atheism; to be one, to profess one is one, and living as one. It might not occur to a religious believer the difficulties of a young—or older—person who realizes that his or her personal way of living does not mesh with those of their families who may be strong believers in a god or who make church or synagogue attendance a key part of their lives. How, their family or friends ask, can atheists live whole and ethical lives? Read *Atheist Voices* and learn.



SEMINAL MURDER
Mary Vermillion
Quest Books - $15.95

The third volume in "The Mara Gilgannon Mystery Series" (*Death by Discount*; *Murder by Mascot*) brings Mara into the complex and emotional byways of artificial insemination. A dear friend and director of a sperm bank is murdered, and as Mara is drawn into the search for the killer, disquieting questions arise—why, for example, do fewer inseminations of lesbian clients succeed? Other enticing plot threads involve her ex who is trying to get pregnant, her over-the-top housemate who is pals with a prime suspect, a determined 15-year-old who wants Mara to find her donor father, and the ominous Reverend Leo Spires, a fanatic fundie hell-bent against any kind of insemination program—especially for lesbians. Mara's wry wit and posse of pals proceed with vim and vigor.



RESCUE AT INSPIRATION POINT
Kate McLachlan
Quest Books - $16.95

If you can wrap your mind around time travel (think Connie Willis), then you'll love this quirky time-travel thriller, the sequel to McLachlan's *Rip Van Dyke*. It's 1988, and Van, participating in a practice hostage situation, is actually captured and her partner, Patsy, becomes a hostage negotiator for real. To find the witness to one prisoner's crime, their friend Bennie travels back (in Jill's time machine) to Spokane's 1974 Expo. Immediately, headstrong Bennie breaks the universal time travel rule: Don't get involved. The plot moves swiftly in times and venues, from prison tower where Van is being held by two (or one?) depraved killers. Will Bennie return with the evidence? What will her interference have wrought? McLachlan weaves a heady web of suspense and believability. □

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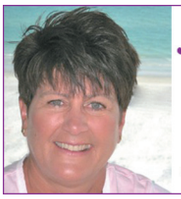


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DATELAND | Jennifer Parello

A First…And Last…Date (Part 2)

(IN OUR first installment, we learned that my girlfriend impulsively invited two women we barely knew to spend the weekend with us at a cabin in the woods. In this episode, we learn why this was a terrible idea.)

So, what do you do with two strangers who you've invited into your home for the weekend? The cabin is less than 1,000 square feet, so a tour of the house lasts about five seconds, which leaves you with five seconds short of 48 hours to kill.

"How about a drink?" I asked sensibly after our conversation raced off a cliff and into a crevasse of awkward silence. Everyone in the party nodded vigorously in moist hunger.

We mixed the cocktails for maximum potency, and they quickly had their desired effect. In short order, we were chatting and laughing as if we had known each other for ages.

As the evening got wetter, our stories became more intimate. We told them of the controversial beginning on our relationship—a story that is equal parts ridiculous and tragic, and just far enough in the past that we can laugh about it. And then they told us of their less-than-romantic origins—how they stumbled into a love trap after years of platonic disinterest.

"We didn't even like each other much as friends," confided one of the women. "I'm still confused why we ever got together."

The other woman, who possessed a deep sullenness that initially charmed me but seemed to darken further into misanthropy with each martini, stared up menacingly from her drink and snapped, "We haven't slept with each other in 10 years."

I shot my girlfriend a look of panic. When I suggested that we make new friends, I didn't think that a) she would drag the first couple she found back to the house and invite them to spend the weekend and b) our new friends would be miserable with each other and, possibly, in the process of plotting to kill each other.

My girlfriend and I excused ourselves to the kitchen while the rumblings of a vicious argument stirred in the fetid atmosphere surrounding our new friends.

"This is going to end in a murder-suicide," I said, as my girlfriend began to hide the knives. "We've got to get them out of here."

"They're drunk," she cried. "They have to spend the night at least. Maybe one of them will pass out before blood is spilled."

We grabbed some alcohol-absorbing snacks and returned to the Edward Albee play that had broken out in the living room. The two women were engaged in a noisy standoff in the middle of the room, screaming accusations and shoving fingers in faces.

They clearly had hated each other in silence for years. Now, fueled by the toxic potion of vodka and olives and unleashed in a strange setting with people they would never have to see again, they finally were able to let their hate bubble fully to the surface.

Hours of stunning humiliations, threats, and a wrestling match that was sparked by a custody dispute over their pets followed. At some point in the evening, my girlfriend and I sneaked off to bed.

The next morning, we woke to find them gone. The living room, which had been victimized by dramatic arm gestures and flung objects the night before, was in perfect order. The only sign of the previous night's events was a crack in our Minnesota State Fair commemorative snow globe. The cow in the center looked slightly bewildered but largely unscathed.

We've placed the snow globe in a prominent place to remind us that making new friends can be as dangerous and unpredictable as a first date. Always best to do a background check before crawling into bed. □

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–FORLORN LESBIAN

Dear Forlorn Lesbian:

It's never a good idea to make a grand plan for a life of spinsterhood right after you get dumped. Be dramatic if you need to and invest in the wardrobe and accoutrements (sweatpants, baseball caps, book-of-the-month-club, multiple felines), but don't commit to it. You're right, however, that this may not be the best time to meet, court, and marry someone new. You'd probably just project your hurt and insecure feelings onto your new girlfriend, which would make you feel like a cling-on, and wouldn't bode well for a healthy relationship.

This is not to blame you for what happened in your last relationship. It sounds like you're actually fortunate that you weren't with her longer; a woman who doesn't have the courtesy to return your calls or offer an explanation after a whole summer of dating probably has some serious emotional issues. But this would be a good time to honestly think back about whether or not there were any clues that she could be so dismissive or that she wasn't as connected as you might have imagined. If you can feel more confident about reading someone else's signals in the future, it may make you feel less fragile. In the meantime, it doesn't make sense to plan how long to stay alone because it will really depend on how you feel. Once you think you can see clearly—you won't confuse a new woman with your ex-girlfriend or your rejecting mommy—then you'll be ready to meet someone.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

Last spring, I began dating a man who seemed sweet. Each time he came over, I made a great meal and we had sex. I was single and a little lonely, despite a full life. He was just breaking up with someone after five years.

I didn't ask for a commitment. We had a blast at the gay pride parade, but then his tune changed, and he acted mean and told me I was moving too fast. I told him that I couldn't help how I felt but that I understood that he wasn't ready to become someone's boyfriend so soon. The day he broke up with me, he was nasty. I was heartbroken.

Recently, he visited the store where I work and left a message saying that he didn't want to disturb me, but hoped all was okay. Perhaps this was something like an apology, but I reacted very negatively. He didn't say he was sorry or that he'd done anything wrong. I felt that trying to "make nice" after breaking my heart without apologizing was inappropriate. I crumpled his note and have no intention of calling him. I'm seeing someone wonderful now anyway.

I did fall in love with the first guy, but wasn't expecting any commitment so quickly. Maybe I'm being silly getting worked up over this because he probably doesn't care. I'm angry because of how he treated me and because he didn't allow any closure.

What do you advise? I'd love to get over this. I value your opinion and enjoyed your book.

–TOM

Dear Tom:

Although you say you're happy with someone new, Ms. Behavior hopes you're not harboring secret fantasies of resuming a romance with Mr. Ambivalence. The best thing about your relationship with him is that it ended quickly. People who become mean or inconsistent and end things badly will often do it again, in an even more hurtful way, given the opportunity.

Ms. Behavior has nothing against the concept of forgiveness; it's just that in the absence of a sincere apology and desire to behave differently, there's no reason to think someone is capable of more than they've already shown you.

You sound like you have a lot to offer to a boyfriend, and Ms. Behavior hopes that the new one turns out to be worthy of your love. (If, however, the real problem is that you exude the scent of desperation, you'll find out soon enough, when the new Mr. Wonderful's toothbrush disappears from your bathroom.) □

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA — POR RODRO



A nudist beach.
Plage nudiste.

You're under arrest for indecent exposure!
Vous êtes en état d'arrestation pour attentat à la pudeur!

I was only applying sunscreen on my tail!
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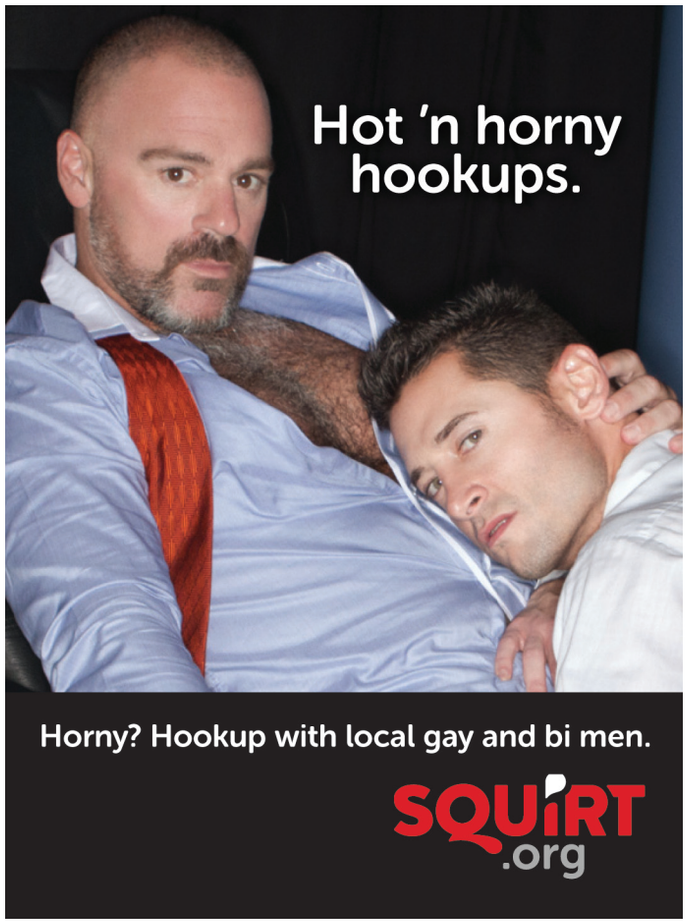
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I Don't Belong Here

"YOU THINK you're so fucking special," the Man with No Face tells me. He's wearing a Freddy Krueger mask. I don't know who he is. It's Halloween, five years ago. "Go to hell," he tells me, but follows me around a costume party for the rest of the night. I feel accepted by everyone at this party but him, and I choose to leave because of it. I feel unwelcome, like I don't belong here.

I'm wearing the stereotypical 21-year-old gay boy Halloween get-up at the time: underwear and glitter with little left to the imagination, an at-the-time signature vulgar-vanity combo. My outfit no doubt displeases the Man with No Face. There are others at that party in similar outfits, of course, but they're muscular, and he admires them from a distance. I, on the other hand, am skinny, twinkish, unfit, in his eyes, for such a costume. To him, I am squashable, and my insecurities let him squash away…

I recalled this memory recently while suffering one of those particularly introspective hangovers with which you might be acquainted. I often listen to somber music when I'm in such a state and by myself, maybe in some way to commiserate with the singer. My choice this go-around: Radiohead's early-90s anthem "Creep."

As I lay on my couch, somewhere between napping and re-hydrating, I listened to Thom Yorke's haunting, resonating words: "I wish I was special. You're so fucking special. But I'm a creep…What the hell am I doing here? I don't belong here."

The lyrics fit my 21st Halloween experience with one exception: the Man with No Face inverted the scenario. He wasn't telling me that I was special and that he felt like a creep. No. He was telling me that I falsely ASSUMED I was special, evidenced by my reveling, unreasonably, in my own vanity. He'd surely seen this paradox before: a twink who tans too much, wears too little, and shows off his body—not because he thinks he's beautiful, but because he's after compliments, stares, cat calls—he's after validation. The Man with No Face saw me in this moment as a narcissist with no confidence. And he was right. I dare say that anyone with such blood lust would easily find his fill in the hearts of many an unclothed desperate.

This happens too frequently among our gay brethren: a barrage of put-downs and bullying toward those who don't meet our social standards, in-your-face and behind-your-back.

I think back to my mindset at 21. I walked around that party with my head held high, feeding off the superficial energy of those around me. To some, like the Man with No Face, I gave the air of a narcissist. And, by some measure, I suppose I was. I wanted everyone looking at ME. Telling me how cute I was. But not because I thought I was a beauty—

What I thought of myself then really didn't matter so much. I needed the validation of everyone else. I needed to feel wanted. That, in my mind, was love.

But the Man with No Face did then what we have always done to each other and what we're doing with increasing intensity in parts of the gay community (particularly the club scene). He judged me harshly based on what he saw, hiding behind his mask and frumpy striped Freddy sweater, rather than seeing that possibly, maybe, my weakness—my immature craving for superficial acceptance—was behind my flagrant vanity. Maybe had he taken a few seconds to think about this, he would've seen me with sympathy, or maybe with pity. Either would've spared me a hard and haunting memory.

Of course, it might also be true that the Man with No Face was me: at one time himself a boy in glitter and underwear, living for himself and for others' approval, who was burned by a previous version of himself, who then became a cynic.

If the latter is true, I can't imagine he's passed the torch to me. But just in case, I'll keep away from the Freddy Krueger costumes. □

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